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AND
UNDER-DEVELOPED
TERRITORIES**

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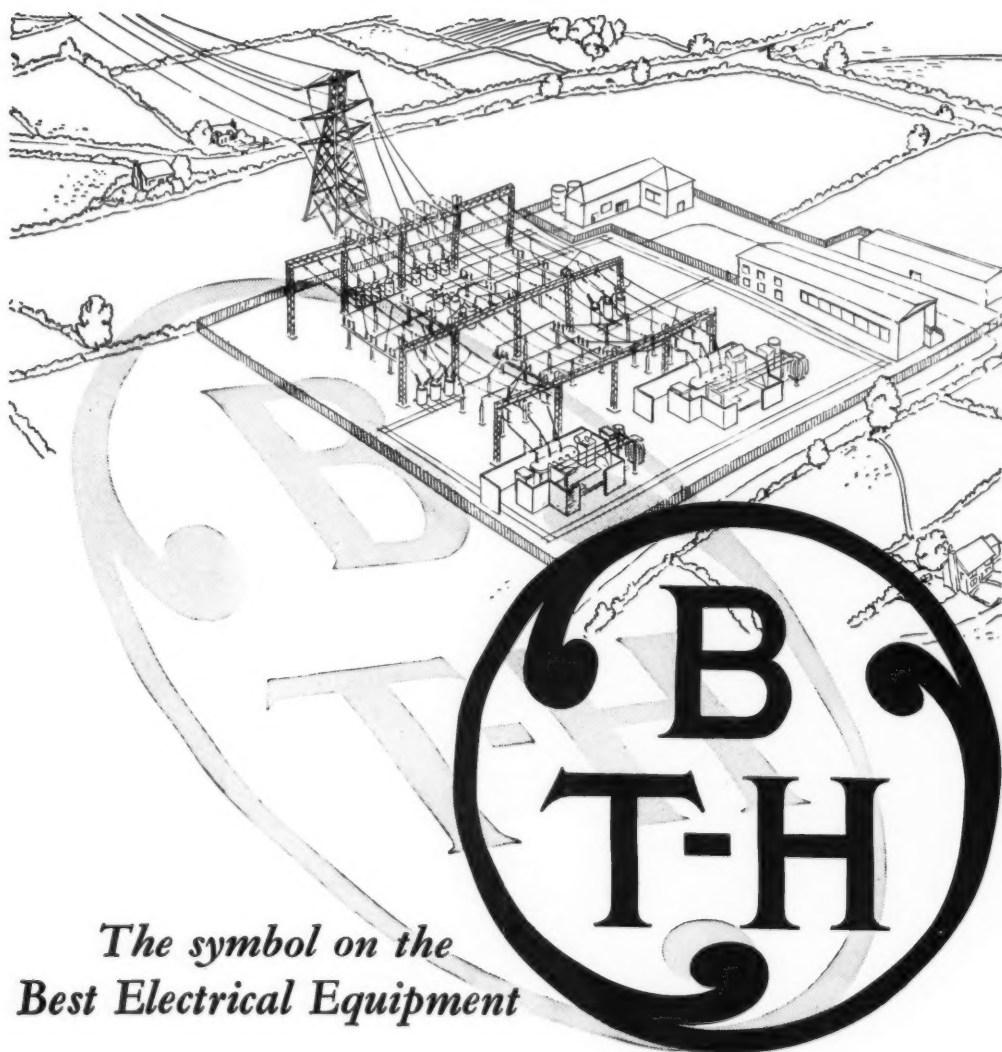
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COVER PICTURE SHOWS :

A fine K'ang Hsi porcelain vase. The decoration shows the Eight Immortals worshipping Shou Lao, the God of Longevity (see article on page 26)

Courtesy of Victoria & Albert Museum

Believing in the freedom of the press, this journal represents a forum where articles containing many different, and often controversial, opinions are being published. They do not necessarily express the views or policy of the paper.

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EASTERN WORLD

ASIAN SOCIALISTS

TO those who see in democratic Socialism the only effective political and ideological answer to the spread of Communism in Asia, the recent conference of Asian Socialists at Rangoon must have brought into perspective the dilemma it faces in that part of the world. How successful the conference was in finding solutions to certain facets of that dilemma cannot best be judged until the effect of the adopted resolutions has filtered through to the lowest working levels of party organization.

That a large amount of time at the conference was devoted to discussing the creation of a separate Socialist organization—separate, that is, from the World Socialist International which Mr. Attlee represented at Rangoon as a fraternal delegate—was indication enough of the different opinions among the Asian delegates themselves on whether Socialist philosophy and concept as understood in Europe at the present time could contribute anything to the practice of Socialism in Asia. The change that Socialism has undergone in Europe since the war and the reorientation of ideas by many Socialists in Britain—ideas which are the outcome of experiment in Government—cannot be easily applied to the problems which confront Asians.

It is evident from the platitudinous and confused nature of the resolution on common Asian problems which was passed at Rangoon, that the delegates were not quite clear how best they could harness western Socialism—with, perhaps, some of the “new thinking” which is emerging from certain factions in Europe—to the needs and aspirations of the Asian peoples. Their declared opposition to religious fanaticism, capitalism and feudalism is scarcely enough, since if the imagination of the peasants and intellectuals in south Asia was to be captured at all by such slogans, the Chinese Communists have already captured it.

Fundamental differences, inherent in the pattern of Asian society, have first to be thoroughly understood before an effective but peaceful social revolution can be launched. By accepting the challenge in finding a practical doctrine to form the basis of non-capitalist economic government, Asian Socialists are faced with a dilemma that does not present itself to the Communists. To the masses who have been conditioned to authoritarian rule for a few hundred years, a relatively slow, tolerant, democratic Socialist revolution, with no existing or relevant pattern to inspire emulation, is likely to appear as nothing more than an ideal whose fulfilment will be beset by laborious parliamentary practices.

The experiment in social welfare which has been going forward in Burma for the last few years is adequate

proof of how difficult it is to bring about the liberation of a society, as well as of the individual, while maintaining not only a stable but a dynamic system of government.

The triumph of Socialism in the western sense means political liberation, out of which is born economic emancipation. To the under-educated Asian masses, political liberation, which is synonymous with the falling away of western colonialism, has been brought about without the advent of Socialism; and the difficulty that faced the delegates at Rangoon was how to bring about economic emancipation—which as far as those masses are concerned means simply more land—within the framework of their Socialist principles of constitutional, peaceful democratic action and justice, and in the shortest possible time.

To say that “they must be more dynamic instead of gradual and, if necessary, unconstitutional,” was perhaps another, and vague way, of indicating that the form of socialist revolution they envisage as being the only feasible one for Asia would not be acceptable to western Socialists, since it would appear, to begin with at any rate, in an unfamiliar guise.

There is little doubt that Asian Socialists have learnt much from the revolution in China, and if they can adapt what was useful in that to what is sensible in western-conceived Socialism, they may yet emerge as a new and powerful force to become the *deus ex machina* in Asia.

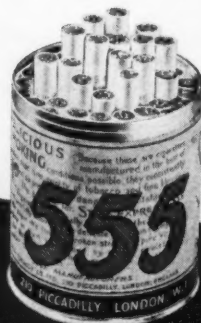
TWILIGHT IN PAKISTAN

THE draft for the Constitution of Pakistan as prepared by the Basic Principles Committee, has caused widespread consternation inside and outside Pakistan. The Constitution, if accepted on the proposed lines, would subject the country to the rule of Boards formed by orthodox mullahs with the power to veto any law which they consider incompatible with the Koran and the Sunnah. Laws thus rejected could only be passed again by the majority of all the Moslem members of the Legislative Assembly. This medieval theocracy would not even represent all Moslem religious interests, as the Sunnah does by no means constitute the law of all Moslems. It is not adhered to by the Shiah sect, for example, which has already protested against the power to be given to the Sunnah mullahs. The plan to establish separate electorates for the minorities further tends to create second-class citizens and would prevent Pakistan from ever becoming a multi-nation state with equal rights for all its subjects. Practically every conception of modern statehood is threatened if these proposals are being passed. Women would be driven back to purdah, and every possible form of progress could, and would, be vetoed by religious fanatics. That it was possible to make these proposals at all, augurs badly for Pakistan where, since the loss of Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, freedom has been fighting a losing battle.



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ASIA IN WASHINGTON

By David C. Williams (Washington)

FOR weeks after the November elections, offices of the American Red Cross were deluged with phone calls, putting in one form or another the following question:

"Now that Eisenhower is going to Korea, will my boy be home for Christmas?"

Nothing could better illustrate the high hopes aroused by Eisenhower's campaign pledge to go to Korea (which, more than any other single thing, won him the election) and the confidence placed in him by millions of Americans with relatives in Korea or about to go there.

It is true, of course, that Eisenhower himself promised no more than to visit Korea and review the situation there in person. He offered no magic solution. But, such is the unpopularity of the Korean war and the longing of the people for it to come to an end, that very much more was read into his words than was actually there.

It had been widely feared abroad, and the fear was fully shared by thoughtful Americans, that Eisenhower might find his prestige so deeply committed to a Korean solution that he might be tempted to take some precipitate action, such as extending the war. This fear was enhanced by the knowledge that some of the leading American commanders in Korea would urge him to do so. Some of the leading newspapers and political commentators thought the trip a mistake, and urged that the President-elect be not held to a promise made in the heat of the campaign.

Eisenhower's statement at his Seoul press conference gave considerable comfort to those who had been concerned at the possible implications of his trip. He said:

"How difficult it seems to be in a war of this kind to work out a plan that would bring a positive and definite victory without possibly running a grave risk of enlarging the war. There are many limitations in a war of this kind, but this much is certain: here we are realising that freedom is an indivisible thing—we're all engaged in a common enterprise . . . and even if there may be some misunderstandings or differences of opinion with respect to that, still we are all here to see it through."

Also reassuring to critics of the trip was the presence of General Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in whose responsibility and discretion informed Washingtonians have much confidence.

Eisenhower went on to say: "Much can be done, in my opinion, to improve our position—much will be done." What would be done, of course, he did not say, beyond giving a clear indication that equipment and arms would be provided to increase the size of the South Korean army. It is certain, however, that during the weeks before he assumes the Presidency, he will be considering the reports and recommendations that were made to him in Korea.

From the American commanders these were:

1. The present forces can continue the stalemate on the battlefield almost indefinitely.
2. One alternative to a holding action would be to build up UN forces and then threaten the Communists with an all-out offensive unless they accept UN truce terms.
3. The UN should consider using small atomic bombs and artillery shells, and other new weapons such as guided missiles.
4. Other UN members should increase their contributions.
5. If a new offensive is to be mounted, Korea must have priority over Western Europe for men and materials.
6. Any such offensive should be accompanied by a blockade of the China coast and permission to bomb Manchurian military bases.
7. It might be wise to use Chinese Nationalist troops if they can be provided with the needed equipment.

From President Syngman Rhee and other South Korean leaders Eisenhower heard the following views:

1. There can be no truce which leaves Korea divided.
2. Any political settlement must guarantee withdrawal of the Chinese and dissolution of the North Korean regime.
3. South Korea opposes the withdrawal of American forces.

As he weighs the varied and sometimes contradictory advice that has been given him, Eisenhower will be more free from pressure by the extremist elements of his own Republican Party than seemed likely a few weeks ago. This was the result of a dramatic breach between Eisenhower and Senator Robert Taft which occurred while Eisenhower was in Korea.

After considering and rejecting various possible candidates for the post of Secretary of Labour in his Cabinet, Eisenhower decided to return to traditional Republican practice and choose a trade union official. So heavily is the labour movement committed to the Democratic Party that no Republican candidates of any consequence were available. He therefore chose Martin Durkin, a Democrat and President of the Plumbers' Union of the American Federation of Labour, and the appointment was announced after he had left for Korea.

Senator Taft, who had suggested several anti-labour Republicans for the post, was infuriated and publicly denounced the selection. At the same time, he revealed that none of the persons he had suggested for Cabinet posts had been chosen.

It is without precedent in American history for a party leader thus to denounce a President-designate of his own party before he has even taken office. Usually a new Pre-

sident enjoys a "honeymoon" period of cordial relations with the leaders of his party for many months after his election.

Senator Taft has suffered a grave loss of prestige, even more from his own rash action than from the fact that his advice was ignored. He has, in fact, renounced his cherished title of "Mr. Republican." And, although Vice-

President Nixon has made no public statement, it is clear that Eisenhower has not asked his advice either.

By putting the backwoodsmen of his party in their place, Eisenhower has taken the full power of decision into his own hands. What use he will make of that power will not be clear until he moves into the White House next month.

MONGOLIA

By K. D. Gott (Melbourne)

THE traveller who leaves China via the north-west route operated by the Sino-Soviet airlines company may be fortunate enough to be delayed at Ulan Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic. Sandwiched between China and the USSR, it is a country as remote and as little-known as Tibet.

The southern part of the Republic includes a section of the Gobi desert. Here the plane from Peking made a brief stop before leaving for Ulan Bator and Irkutsk (Siberia). At 10 a.m. on a May morning the air was bitterly cold and passengers soon forsook the novelty of treading the central Gobi sands for the comparative warmth of the plane.

At Ulan Bator the airport is situated high above the city which itself is over 3,000 feet above sea level. The green landing field was surrounded on all sides by symmetrical, sharp peaks. The snow on these only ceased at the level of the landing field, investing the scene with a fabulous charm.

The Mongolian language forms a group along with Korean and Japanese. It is written phonetically and the old vertical script is now being replaced by the Cyrillic (Russian) alphabet. Match-box labels, for example, are being printed in both alphabets during the transitional period. Visas are in Mongolian, but written with the Cyrillic alphabet.

Russian is the European language most widely known, but I encountered a friendly young student who had also begun the study of German. We found we could converse satisfactorily in a mixture of Russian and German.

He was as interested in my country as I was in his. After all, as he pointed out, our countries were allies against Japan and both were vast lands with sparse population. Our friendship was sealed when we found that wool was the main export of each.

Mongolia (excluding Inner Mongolia, which is part of China) covers an area equal to that of France, Spain, Portugal, Britain and Eire combined. As is evident from a flight over it, it is tremendously varied in topography and vegetation. The brown expanses of the Gobi in the south yield in the west to the snow-capped Altai which range up to 13,000 feet. There are dense forests, alpine pastures, thick growths of brush and rich meadows in the valleys of rivers flowing northwards to the Arctic. The entire country stands at a high elevation, averaging 1,500 feet above sea-level, with even the "lowest" spots at 500 feet.

The population is officially estimated at just over one million. Apart from Mongolians (subdivided into the Halha, Minghat, Olot, Bargut, Chihar and other groups) there are minorities of Chinese, Kazakhs, Tuvians, Dyurbets, Hotons and Hamnegans.

This is all that remains of the "Golden Horde" and the vast 13th century empire of Jenghiz Khan who spread his dominion across all China, west through central Asia to the gates of Europe, north to Siberia and south to golden Samarkand, Lahore and Peshawar.

A century later the Khan's realm disintegrated and after 1691 his native land fell under the sway of the Manchurian Chinese. It was only freed in 1911 when the Mongolian princes seized the Chinese garrison and expelled the Chinese governor.

The Chinese returned in 1919, seemingly with Japanese backing. Later in the same year the infant Soviet government in Russia issued a revolutionary proclamation to the Mongolian people and in 1921 backed it up by sending Red Army forces to join with the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in overthrowing

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*Landscape near Ulan Bator*

the government. Thus was born the first Marxist type government outside of the USSR itself. The two governments signed treaties of friendship and in 1939 jointly sent forces to resist Japanese advances in the region of the Mongolian border.

Today the country's economy is overwhelmingly pastoral, with the vast bulk of the flocks being privately owned. Camels, horses, cattle, sheep and goats are the main stock and the animals are moved seasonally in search of the best pasture.

The Five-Year Plan, which is due to be completed this year, seems a strange anomaly in a primitive land of nomadic herdsmen. Nevertheless, under the Plan the government has set itself the aim of raising the herds to a total of 31 million by the end of 1952. To this end it has set up veterinary stations, sunk wells in the dry Gobi region and taken measures to improve pastures.

Agriculture is a subsidiary occupation, but a few state farms have been set up, apparently as "pilot projects." What little industry exists is nationalised and largely centres in Ulan Bator.

The capital, with many modern white buildings in the centre, is rapidly assuming a European appearance. It has a population of just over 80,000. Here are to be found

wool-scouring establishments, woodworking factories, a meat-packing plant and some automobile repair shops to service the cars imported from the USSR.

In 1949, 50 per cent. of the population was illiterate. But I was assured that the Five-Year Plan would see the end of illiteracy by 1952 and the introduction of universal, compulsory education for children.

The world knows little of Mongolia, but probably the country has won greater publicity from its amazing theatrical art than from any other source. Since the end of the war Mongolian cultural groups have performed in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany and the USSR.

For sheer richness and splendour this art has few rivals. A single programme will comprise elements drawn from folk song and dance, native opera, drama, ballet, circus and mime. Western ears take easily to the haunting melodies of Mongolian songs and her musicians turn lightly from their strange folk instruments to play a European classic on violin or 'cello. One leaves such a programme with a deepened realisation that in the culture of one small nation there is a whole world waiting to be explored, and that every nation, however small, has some unique treasure to add to the sum of human civilization.



Dr. S. Radhakrishnan presiding at the 7th Session of Unesco

ASIA and UNESCO

By a Special Correspondent

IT is perhaps unfortunate that the reduction in the budget and the Director-General's subsequent resignation tended to obscure from public view the real discussions and achievements of the 7th General Conference of Unesco, which was held in Paris during November and December. Despite the fact that much time was spent in adapting the programme to fit the new financial limitations, observers at the conference were able to get a clear picture of the programme as it is being carried out in many parts of the world.

Asian countries have always shown great enthusiasm for the work of Unesco and because of the very nature of its programme it is natural that most of Unesco's activities should be devoted towards the solution of the educational problems of the underdeveloped countries. Equally naturally it has been the developed countries of the west which have had to bear the brunt of financial contributions. Many Asian delegations opposed the cuts in the already slender budget of the organisation on the grounds that any attempt to correct the balance between developed and underdeveloped countries was as much in the interest of the one as of the other. During the past few years Unesco has been able to do a considerable amount of work in the field of fundamental education and technical assistance. Illiteracy campaigns have been carried out in cooperation with the various governments concerned and the results have been very encouraging. The Liberian delegate, however, when discussing this question in one of the committees of the conference, remarked that "all countries are more or less underdeveloped and all have as much to learn as they have to teach." The only problem is that it is considerably easier to assess the monetary costs and results of a technical assistance mission in India than it is to evaluate the effects of a publicity campaign in the United States or the United Kingdom. Unesco's programme is an attack on illiteracy and ignorance. While there is much of the former in Asia there is also

much of the latter in the developed countries. Unesco is certainly not a charity organisation and Asian delegates are anxious to point out that the propagation of Unesco's aims and ideals in the west is as important as the campaign against illiteracy in the East.

While the cuts in Unesco's budget may have little apparent effect on the concrete programme now being carried out in Asia they are bound to limit the organisation's development. The Fundamental Education mission at Minneriya in Ceylon will continue to assist in the development of the immense dry zone referred to in the November issue of *EASTERN WORLD*. Similarly a new Fundamental Education centre in Ubol, Thailand, is planned to open during 1953. Several of the experts will in fact be leaving their respective countries shortly to start work in Thailand.

Unesco's programme will continue to affect almost all of the countries in Asia. There are two specialists now in India responsible for training field workers in visual aid techniques for use in Fundamental Education campaigns. In Indonesia there is an educational mission led by Mr. Masud of India. In Pakistan several science teams are already at work. There is a Fundamental Education specialist from Unesco in Cambodia, and a mission will shortly visit Laos to re-organise the educational system and develop fundamental education. In the Philippines there is an eight-man mission, four of whom will establish a fundamental education centre at Bayemberg, while the rest will assist in secondary education and teacher training. Teacher training is also being helped by Unesco in Burma.

A fundamental education training centre will soon be established near Kabul, Afghanistan, under the leadership of Mr. Flores from the Philippines.

In the field of Social Sciences Asian delegates particularly welcomed the decision to carry out a study of the factors leading to the development of human rights and of the tensions produced by class, colour and creed.

Finally a project to prepare a bibliography for South-East Asia was approved and will be of great importance, for the lack of any such work has been seriously hampering any kind of organised and scientific research.

One of the parts of Unesco's programme which attracted universal approval was the Gift Coupon Scheme. This project provides the means whereby groups in the relatively developed countries may send direct assistance in the form of Gift Coupons (a sort of international money order) to specific educational institutions in need of equipment in underdeveloped or war devastated areas. However, the Gift Coupon Scheme is no more a form of charity than Unesco itself, for it was supported by the developed countries as an important educational investment—a means of telling both about the work of Unesco and about the work going on in other countries. The correspondence between schools, youth groups and adult organisations which springs from the scheme is perhaps the most constructive way of bridging the gap between the different types of countries.

Yet, despite this comprehensive programme, Unesco's immediate impact on Asia is necessarily small. With so slender a budget Unesco cannot be expected to have an immediate effect on all the educational problems of the

world. The Asian impact on Unesco, however, is considerable. The delegates from Asian countries played a leading part in the discussions of the General Conference. The election of H.E. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to be President of the 7th Session and the election of Mr. Sharif of Pakistan to be first Vice-President well illustrates the part Asia is playing in the formulation of Unesco policies. It was indeed the discussions carried on by Mr. Sharif which led to the solving of the crisis created by the resignation of the Director-General.

To build peace in the minds of men is no easy task in a world of wars and fears of wars. Nor is it easy to work for Human Rights in a world of disillusion and scepticism. Limited by its budget and criticised from many sides Unesco is still struggling to develop its programme for education, scientific cooperation and cultural exchange. Its success depends not so much on its secretariat, its specialists and its experts, but on the vision, realism and cooperation of the leaders and peoples of its member States. In the newly independent and rapidly developing countries of Asia there is an immense need for Unesco's assistance. And from the Asian people and leaders Unesco must receive understanding, guidance and advice.

EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

By Latif Ahmed Sherwani (Karachi)

DURING the six years 1951-7, Pakistan has planned to spend nearly Rs.1,154 million (approximately 124 million pounds sterling) on educational schemes, of which nearly Rs.722 million are non-recurring and Rs.432 million recurring. The latter figure does not include nearly Rs.90 million which is already being spent on education every year. This enormous expenditure cannot be avoided because at present only 13.8 per cent. of the population can read and write and the system of education that Pakistan inherited is completely unsuited to her needs. It lacks spiritual content and has an over-literary bias. Besides, it completely ignores technical and commercial education, so that the country is now faced with a very acute "know-how" shortage.

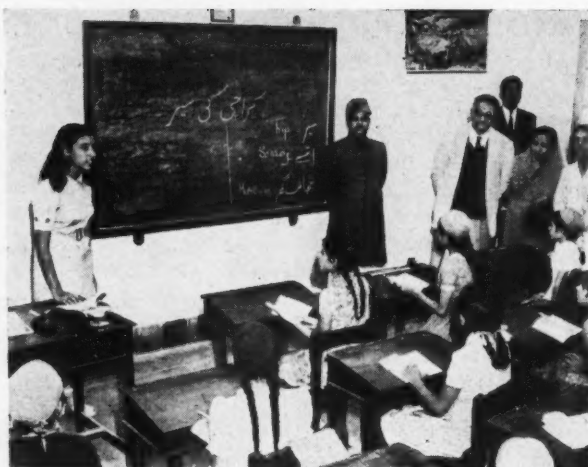
The ultimate aim is that all education should be inspired by Islamic ideology—with special emphasis on universal brotherhood, toleration and social justice—that Urdu should become the national language and that throughout the country education should be uniform. To achieve this, a research section is being created in the central Ministry of Education which is to carry out intensive research in Islamic ideology and also to advise how this ideology could be made to inspire school life. The Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu, headed by the greatest living authority on Urdu, Maulana Abdul Haq, has done valuable work

in popularising Urdu in all parts of Pakistan. Various expert bodies like the Advisory Board of Education, the Inter-University Board and the Council of Technical Education have been most helpful in the task of making education uniform in the various units of the country.

To start with, it is planned to eradicate illiteracy both among children and adults. This entails increasing the



Dacca University, East Pakistan



Mr Fazlur Rahman (centre), Pakistan's Minister for Education, visiting an Urdu class in a Karachi school

present 40,295 primary schools to 64,322 by 1957, with a total enrolment of nearly seven million. For adults, at the moment there are only 881 centres which generally have a four-month course. At the end of six years it is hoped to have as many as 8,953 centres, which will cater for the needs of over 2 million persons yearly. It has been estimated that primary education will cost nearly Rs.222 million on account of land, buildings and equipment and Rs.203 million as recurring expenses. The cost of adult education centres is put at Rs.9 million.

Non-recurring expenditure on secondary education during the six years is estimated at Rs.170 million and annual expenditure at Rs.57 million. This will give the country an additional 721 secondary schools, with a total enrolment of 237,600, at the moment there being 6,486 schools with an enrolment of 1,164,152. Education at this stage is being so reorganized that boys and girls can not only prepare themselves for University education but also enter those occupations in the agricultural, industrial and commercial fields, for which University degrees are not essential.

In the field of higher education Pakistan has 127 colleges (of which 19 are for women), and it is proposed to inaugurate 10 new colleges at an estimated cost of Rs.40 million. Since Independence, two new Universities—Karachi and Peshawar—have been established, so that there are now five centres of higher education, the other three being Dacca, Punjab and Sind. Necessary legislation has just been passed to found a sixth University at Rajshahi in East Pakistan. The existing Universities are being improved and expanded.

Domestic science has been almost completely neglected in the country so far, there being only one school of domestic science at Lahore. This school is now being raised to the level of a college. During the current finan-

cial year another college of domestic science will be opened at Karachi, for which financial assistance has been promised by the Ford Foundation of the United States. It is also planned to start a department of domestic science in the Women's Training College at Dacca.

As regards technical education, Pakistan has at present only two technical high schools and three engineering colleges, but within the next six years twenty new technical high schools, seven composite comprehensive schools, two polytechnics and two new engineering colleges (one of which will gradually be converted into a Technical University) will be started.

Provision is also being made for art and cultural activities, a composite institution for deaf, dumb, blind and crippled children, additional teachers' training schools, audio-visual aids in secondary schools, physical training, sports stadium and gymnasiums, youth clubs and hostels. A sum of Rs.3 million has been set apart for the training overseas of 260 boys and girls to meet the growing requirements of the central and provincial governments, Universities and private industries. In addition the United Nations and several foreign Governments and institutions have offered Pakistanis facilities of various kinds for higher studies and technical training. Some of these schemes are already in operation and there is every reason to believe that, by 1957, the whole of Pakistan's educational system will be given a new orientation, without which it is impossible to lay the foundations of a really Islamic democracy.

LOOK AND LISTEN

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THE RYUKYU ISLANDS

By E. H. Rawlings

WHEN the San Francisco Treaty was signed in September, 1951, some insignificant islands between the 29th and 30th parallels were returned to the Japanese, but nearly a million Ryukyuan inhabitants, almost half of whom live in Okinawa, are still under SCAP rule. Okinawa's strategic importance is the main reason for the American retention of control over the Ryukyuan islands.

Okinawa is being established as a huge air base as an insurance in case the bases in Japan are lost. Bombers have already flown from the island to assist the United Nations forces in Korea. Their base is only about 900 miles from the Yalu and 400 miles from Shanghai. Both Tokyo and Hong Kong can be reached by air in four to five hours. Okinawa is also suitable as an air base because its skies are usually free of fog and the winters are warm. The Americans have made it a healthy spot with the use of DDT, vaccination, and rat control. Modern methods of prediction have minimised the dangers of typhoons, which strike on an average of once or twice a year.

The strategic island chain on which US policy is now based begins in the Philippines and extends northwards through Formosa and the Ryukyus to the Aleutians and the busy Alaskan airport of Anchorage. Okinawa can be reached from New York in three days by civil airline along this route. There are, however, some missing links in the chain for the line of volcanic islands known as the Kuriles, about thirty in number, stretching across the entrance to the Sea of Okhotsk to the southern tip of the peninsula of Kamchatka are now in Russian hands. The Russians also control the whole of the island of Sakhalin situated on the west side of the Sea of Okhotsk.

Despite their unfavourable climate, Sakhalin and the Kuriles are of greater economic importance to Japan than the Ryukyus, because of the abundance of herring, salmon, and sturgeon in their adjoining waters. Moreover, the valuable coalmines and an oilfield in the north of Sakhalin were worked by the Japanese under licence from the Russians before the war. The Japanese have met with suspicion and hostility from the Russians while fishing near Sakhalin and the Kuriles, and since the San Francisco Treaty came into force on 28th April, 1952, fifteen Japanese fishing boats have been detained on suspicion of spying. This is perhaps understandable as the Kuriles are now the scene of much Soviet naval activity.

The future status of the Ryukyus, the Kuriles and Sakhalin might under the circumstances become of urgent

importance. The Japanese Prime Minister stated that he expected the Ryukyus to be held by the USA as a victor Power while present military requirements existed, but to be later given back to Japan either directly or by a mandate action of the United Nations. On 6th June, 1952, it was reported that the Right-wing Socialist Party were considering taking joint action for the return of the Kuriles and opposing the creation of a United Nations trusteeship for the USA in the Ryukyus. The importance of regaining as much as possible of her lost territory cannot be overlooked from the Japanese point of view. Japanese-held territory is only one-fifth of its pre-war size, and has to maintain one-half of the pre-war population. Furthermore, three-quarters of the land is uncultivable and the remainder only moderately fertile, besides seriously lacking in mineral deposits.

There were divided opinions among the Okinawans on the reunion with Japan until February, 1952, when the first autonomous Central Legislature was elected. Independents and liberal parties gained 20 out of 31 seats, the Socialist Party 10 seats and the People's Party one. As soon as the San Francisco Treaty came into force this Legislature sent a petition to President Truman, SCAP, and Premier Yoshida for an early return of the Ryukyus to Japan, based on the fact that under Article III of the Treaty the islands are part of Japan. However, the petition ignores the real intention of the Treaty, which contemplates United Nations trusteeship under US administration as the final objective. There is no doubt that behind the petition lies a certain amount of discontent which is being used as an instrument of political propaganda—for the purpose of getting the Americans to quit the islands.

Whatever the cause for complaint, the US administration has made some remarkable changes in the islands during its seven years of occupation. There is now an elected Legislature, a free press, and a native broadcasting service. Education is progressing considerably, and the Americans have started a university at Shuri, near the capital at Naha; while substantial schools are being built even in the most remote villages. Christian missions are active, specially among the younger people. Naha, destroyed in 1945, is now rebuilt, and large stone buildings are under construction. Still much is yet to be done before a vast and growing peasant population can adjust itself to modern methods of farming, but with the use of American technical aid, fertilisers and better tools, progress is already being made.

CHINA BUILDS FOR WAR— AIMS OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

By Wilfred Ryder

CHOU EN-LAI, Chinese Prime Minister, has announced the first Chinese Five-Year Plan. Like similar plans in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, it is designed to change China from an agricultural into an industrial country.

On what basis can such a plan be built? China has one industrial area, in Manchuria; it has a steel-making capacity of about two million tons a year which is claimed to have been restored after the devastation of the war. She has, however, an unlimited labour pool in her population of some 500,000,000 and a vast land-area the mineral wealth of which has never been explored.

Logically, therefore, one feature of the new plan is to be a nation-wide geological survey, particularly in Sinkiang where sporadic explorations in the past have indicated the presence of coal, oil and non-ferrous metals. A small army of geologists is being trained for this search; nearly four thousand students are already taking courses at two geological and mining institutes set up last November.

One mineral that will be sought above others is oil, for which before the Korean war China relied almost entirely on Western oil companies. Chu Teh, C-in-C. of the Chinese Army, said, in December, 1951, that with the aid of Soviet experts China would in five to ten years catch up with the "basic world producers of oil." He presumably meant by this that China aims to produce as much as the Soviet Union—about 40m. tons of oil a year, not as much as the USA, which produces some 300m. tons. In 1951 China produced only a quarter of a million tons and can hardly have done more than double that figure by today. A major proportion of effort in the Five-Year Plan must, then, be directed to oil production if Chu Teh's boast is to be realised.

One of China's great economic weaknesses hitherto, which must be corrected if industrialisation is to be possible, is her communications. From North to South along the coast she is well supplied with railways but from North to South in the interior and between her Northwest and Southwest provinces and the coastal network there are great gaps. The new plan will remedy these defects. Two important lines were already finished in 1952. They are the Chengtu-Chungking line and the extension to Lanchow from Tientsin of the East-West line from the coast. Two new trunk lines, nearly three thousand miles long, are now to be built linking Sinkiang and the Southwest with the rest of China. One is to be an extension of the line from the coast through Lanchow to Tihwa, capital of Sinkiang, and then on to the Soviet Union. Another will be a North-South line between Tientsin and Chengtu. From Sikang Province in Southwest China a

motor road, a thousand miles long, is being built to Lhasa, capital of Tibet.

The taming and harnessing of China's rivers, whose annual floods bring food or famine to millions, will be another feature of the plan. Flood prevention schemes are being designed at the same time to provide irrigation canals, in order to bring more land under cultivation, and reservoirs for hydro-electric schemes. Such a project is already under way on the Yangtse. To the North another project has been begun on the Huai River; literally millions of civilians and soldiers are at work on it. The Huai River, the "River without a Mouth," used to be a tributary of the Hwang Ho or Yellow River until it changed its course and flowed into Lake Hungtse, which frequently bursts its banks as a result. One of the largest irrigation canals in China, 105 miles long, is now being built across the North Kiangsu Plain north of Nanking, to link Hungtse Lake with the sea. Further North still the largest dam in China, 170 feet high, is being built across the Yungting River to prevent its annual flooding of farmland between Peking and Tientsin.

Vast forest belts are being planted to protect the new farmlands which are to be watered by these schemes and to win the old lands which the wind has turned into deserts. One is being planted between Peking and Tientsin where the Yungting floods have deposited large quantities of sand which shifts with the wind and covers large tracts of farmland; forest belts will make the sand stationary. Southwards from Tientsin another belt will stretch for a thousand miles along the coast of Shantung Province; another, 350 miles long, will be planted along the Kiangsu coast from the mouth of the Hwang Ho to beyond Shanghai on the Yangtse. North of Tientsin another belt 1,730 miles long and 200 miles wide is being planted from Antung on the North Korea-Manchuria border along the coast to Shanhaikwan, then Northwards to Tsitsihar in Northern Manchuria; it will protect the coastal plains of Northeast China from the wind, sandstorms, floods and drought with which they are continually plagued.

When these belts are finished, the China coast from Shanghai to the Korean border will be covered with trees. Apart from reclaiming barren land and protecting new land, the fast growing pines, firs, cedars and other softwoods to be planted will also meet the demand for timber.

The development of raw materials, road and rail communications, flood prevention and the development of land resources and forest can be predicted with certainty as features of China's long-term plan. The rest is still uncertain. No targets have yet been announced for the production of steel, coal, oil, electric power, as is usual

with Soviet and East European long-term plans. One reason for this uncertainty is that the extent of Soviet aid, without which industrialisation will be impossible, is not yet known. Negotiations on this aid have been in progress since Chou En-lai went to Moscow last August. When he left in September he left behind him Sung Shao-wen, one of his economic advisers. He was joined on November 4th by Foreign Trade Minister Yeh Chi-chuang. No results of these five-months-long talks have yet been announced.

They are concerned with the amount of aid China is to receive and the price she is to pay. One price that has already been asked and paid is that the Soviet Union should retain her military, air and naval bases at Port Arthur in Manchuria. Under the terms of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of 1950 the Soviet Government promised to return these bases to China before the end of 1952. Before Chou En-lai left Moscow he diplomatically pleaded with the Soviet Government to retain them because of "imperialist aggressive designs" on China.

China will certainly also be asked to supply the Soviet Union with large quantities of the raw materials to be produced under the new plan. There is, however, a hint of a bigger price than this. The industrialisation of China should mean that, like the Soviet Union after the revolution, China will seek a long period of peace and avoid foreign adventures in order to concentrate on economic development at home. Unfortunately when Chou En-lai announced the Five-Year Plan last month, he explicitly stated that industrialisation does not mean that the "Aid Korea, Resist America Campaign" is to be relaxed; it

must be carried on at the same time and even intensified.

Moreover, it has been made abundantly clear that China's industrial development is to be directed primarily to the building of a heavy industrial war machine, and only secondarily to the raising of the standard of living of the people. When the industrialisation plan was first discussed at the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference in October, 1951, Chou En-lai said that "Production in our country must serve the purpose of strengthening our national defence forces." Li Fu-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the State Administrative Council, said: "As the consolidation of national defence is the first task, heavy industry connected with defence should be reinforced first."

The aims of the Peking Government have not changed since. Kao Kang, Manchuria's leading Communist and Chairman of the Northeast People's Government, said on April 11th, 1952, that first importance in basic construction must be given to construction for national defence and heavy industry, second place to construction for light industry and third place to "other things."

If China is to direct her industrialisation primarily to building up her military might, it may well be that the Soviet Union is demanding in return for economic aid that she must continue her present role in Moscow's world strategy—the engaging around her borders in Korea and Indo-China of the main forces of the West, thus weakening Western positions in Europe, while keeping in turmoil the main sources of the raw materials on which Western industry relies.

Progress in the MALDIVES

By Austin de Silva (Colombo)

THE Maldivian Islands, which became the world's youngest republic on January 1st, have suddenly emerged from the obscurity which has surrounded them for centuries, although contacts between the islands and the outside world have been gradually increasing.

During the last ten years, more progress has been made in these "thousand and one isles" than for many decades in the past. The development has been neither rapid nor revolutionary. It has been peaceful and steady—an evolution to suit the peculiar genius of the Maldivians and their conservatism grown out of centuries of isolation from the rest of the world.

This ordered growth is prominent in Male, the capital of the islands, which from a mediæval townlet has been



The harbour, Male

transformed into a modern town. A row of buildings skirting the sea-front, *buggalows* and locally-manufactured boats riding idly on the waters of a fine natural harbour and an ever-green panorama of shrubs and bushes marking the coastline, make a pleasant picture.

The orderliness that prevails in Male is striking. The new roads are broad and are strewn with white limestone sand, which give them a cleanliness unrivalled by any other town elsewhere. Because they are one hundred per cent Muslim, the islanders do not rear dogs and cattle, and the few goats they have are confined to one section of the island. All roads run parallel to one another in Male. The wards of the town are divided in squares with a mosque and a small office or congregation hall attached to each of them.

Considerable headway has been made in the organisation and development of the various industries in which both men and women of the islands are engaged. The Government control the whole of the trade in Maldivian fish, one of the principal sources of income and a speciality which only the Maldives produce. It is in great demand in Ceylon and South India where it is used as a "spice" in curries. The import of foodstuffs to the islands, particularly from Ceylon, is also a Government monopoly. Trade between the Maldives and Ceylon and South India is carried on in native-built *buggalows*, which resemble old sailing ships.

Electricity has been recently introduced into the islands and the provision of other modern amenities is being considered. More Maldivian boys than ever before are receiving their education in Ceylon and in Egypt with which, as Muslims, the Maldivians have close connections. Primary schools for boys and girls have also sprung up in Male.

In most matters the Maldivians look to Ceylon for guidance and assistance since until recently the Maldives were a dependency of Ceylon paying an annual tribute. But this picturesque ceremony, which attracted considerable attention in Colombo as the tribute in the form of Maldivian produce was taken from the Maldivian Sultan's *buggalow* in Colombo harbour to the Governor's residence in procession with native music, ceased with the attainment of independence by Ceylon. The Maldives now manage their own affairs, although external matters have been handled through the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Colombo in accordance with the treaty signed between the United Kingdom and the Maldives.

Ceylon's connection with the Maldives goes back for centuries. Remains of Buddhist stupas scattered in the Maldivian jungles point to a time when the Maldives were a Buddhist country like Ceylon. History throws little light on the spread of Buddhism in the islands and its subsequent disappearance in the 12th century with the advent of Islam. However, in spite of the eight centuries of Mohamedanism that have prevailed, vestiges of the earlier influence of Buddhism still survive.

Male is the chief of the numerous islands that comprise the Maldives. It contains 6,000 out of the 84,000 inhabitants of the new republic. It is the most progressive island of the whole group and has been the residence of the Sultan from time immemorial.

THE HUMAN FACTOR AND UNDER-DEVELOPED TERRITORIES

By P. C. J. Van Loon (The Hague)

THE economic development of the less developed countries is a focus of interest today. I should like to draw attention to some aspects of this development, which become particularly conspicuous when we consider the human factor. Technical skill and capital are not sufficient to achieve the desired economic progress. Human beings must give their full cooperation and employ their spiritual and material energy as well.

The economic development of Western Europe came about rather gradually during a period of some hundreds of years. It was accompanied by technical and social revolutions which are continuing up to the present day. It would seem that during the process the human factor has been undervalued. Everywhere a discrepancy may be seen between actual technical progress and the growth of spiritual and moral values. Yet in the name of humanity we are now going to apply western technical skill in the

less developed territories, although we have not even been able to integrate our own technical development in our culture.

The less developed countries have a completely different social and spiritual structure, the latter being the most striking phenomenon. The Japanese psychologist, S. Myatee, in his social welfare report in which he describes the results of his studies in the Netherlands, sketches this structure as follows: "The spiritual attitude of man is considered of the utmost importance. Giving up one's property and possessions is a step towards heaven. Everyone adopting this attitude has the right to live on what his fellow-men earn. Labour is of secondary importance. The world and life itself are something like a dream. Absolute existence is the opposite of the so-called reality." This spiritual attitude also manifests itself in an aversion to technical development and a preference for a primitive way of life.

The introduction of western technical methods and means of production into these communities means the

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dislocation of internal social and cultural relationships. The process began in the years when Europe started to exploit these countries in its own interests. We are now living in a period when it has become clear to everybody that this exploitation is simply criminal and is bound to lead to a world revolution and a world war. The nature of western assistance and the way in which this assistance is going to be lent will be decisive for its success.

Within a few decades the under-developed countries are passing through a process which took many hundreds of years in Europe. The family and village community are dislocated. People turn adrift. Religion, authority and morale lose their original meaning. One might speak of a "culture shock" resulting in a spiritual and moral upheaval. The economic and cultural self-sufficiency of the village is drawing to a close. Handicrafts and home industries have to give way to factories, goods and services are expressed in terms of money and prices are governed by the development of the world market. Free competition is replaced by customs and arrangements. The individual members of the family become detached and begin to feel like wanderers, while individualism and materialism become necessities of life. The ignorant people (as a rule illiterate) see everything around them in which they found support and which gave a certain meaning to their life, totter and disappear. Social relations are disrupted at a tremendous speed. Large land-ownership collapses, leading to the rise of the middle classes. People begin to leave the country and settle in the towns. The cities grow fast and in them gather thousands of people who have turned adrift. Criminality increases. Films, newspapers and other means of information and recreation infuse the people with a western way of thinking and feeling. As a result of the dislocation of family relations widows, orphans, disabled persons and old people are left uncared for. It is impossible to create at short notice a welfare organisation for these destitutes.

In these conditions the new industrial workers must give their working-power. But they are still strange to technics. Labour discipline is something quite new and even the idea that labour is necessary is quite new to them. We may conclude from the above that western assistance by means of technical science and capital will be able to achieve the desired results only if this science takes into account the vastly different cultural and social conditions, only if social measures are adopted for strengthening the economy and if economic development is brought about gradually.

Thus, two main requirements should be emphasized:

- (1) The human factor makes it necessary to ensure that assistance aiming at economic development is accompanied by assistance aiming at the social development of the countries concerned.
- (2) Assistance in the field of economic and social development will have to be given in a spirit of social compassion and love.

It may sound strange to use the terms "compassion and love" in the field of economic development. Econo-

mists and business men are used to the idea that economic investments will have to yield a profit expressed in terms of money. Any investment not yielding a profit or interest runs counter to economic principles. We should emphatically warn against the idea that economic assistance must yield a result which can only be expressed in terms of money.

Socio-psychological factors have led to a situation in which the less developed countries are highly suspicious of the intentions of the west. These countries are the "have-nots." They fear that any assistance lent by the west will increase their dependence. This suspicion cannot be removed by means of reasoning and speeches. Only action will be able to conquer it.

Assistance in the field of social development should contain three main elements:

- (1) Assistance in facilitating the process of social and spiritual adaptation of the population to economic development;
- (2) direct support for economic development;
- (3) help in promoting a balanced structure of society in which the human rights are recognized and guaranteed.

The first two forms of social assistance should be aimed at promoting economic development. The promotion of the process of spiritual and social adaptation to western technical science is a task which should be taken in hand by the sociologists and the spiritual, cultural and social leaders of these populations. We can assist them provided we realize that it is not practicable to try and bring about in these countries a social structure similar to our own.

By means of guidance and education the population will have to be induced to work in industry. The adoption of some social security measures may be helpful in this respect. Medical steps to combat all sorts of infectious diseases (as a result of which millions of people are unable to perform productive labour) will have to be taken. Sociologists will have to indicate practical lines of action for social welfare work in order to achieve a gradual change-over from the agrarian to the industrialized community, and for the prevention of social consequences of this change-over which, as a rule, results in tensions, upheavals, lack of self-discipline and order, and a greatly reduced productivity of labour.

If the economic development of these countries becomes a fact, all endeavours can be aimed at a third form of social assistance: education, health care, social security. Social welfare work will concentrate on a social structure of the community in which the rights of every individual human being are recognized and guaranteed.

The above gives an indication as to the form of assistance to be lent by UN, the Commonwealth, etc., which should integrate the plans for economic development and social development. Economists and social experts will have to work together as a team. The success of international assistance will probably be incumbent on the achievement of this integration.

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LONDON NOTEBOOK

CHINESE CERAMICS

The Oriental Ceramic Society exhibited last month some of the most important and rarest Sung wares, Ju and Kuan. Chinese ceramic art reached its zenith in the Sung Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.). The Sung porcelains owe their fame more to their shapes and the quality of their glazes than to their decoration. Ju wares were made for the Imperial Court in North China before 1127 A.D. Later, after the Sung Dynasty was defeated by the Tartars, Kuan wares were made in the South. Few specimens of Ju and Kuan of Imperial quality remain today, but the Society was fortunate enough to obtain loan exhibits from its members in the UK, USA and Sweden.



Mrs. Myothan (left) and Mrs. Aung, guests at a reception given by the Burmese Ambassador on 5th January to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Republic of the Union of Burma.

AFGHAN STAMPS

Major Adrian E. Hopkins gave an interesting talk on Afghanistan's Postal History to the Postal History Society last month. He explained that stamps were first introduced in Afghanistan by the British expeditionary force in 1839. From the first they were printed locally, usually on tissue paper. A smear of mud or rifle oil served as a cancellation mark; later a piece was torn out of the stamp. Although bandits and dependence on irregular camel caravans regulated the service, a registered post service was introduced before the end of the nineteenth century. Stamps were valid only in Afghanistan and a surcharge was payable outside the country.

Major Hopkins spent many years in Afghanistan and India, and has a unique collection of Afghanistan stamps.

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Letters to the Editor

Lancashire and Japanese Competition

Sir, I wonder if any other readers have noticed the somewhat contradictory aspect of the report on the British Cotton Industry which has just been issued by the ten American experts who visited Lancashire in 1950.

Many of their criticisms, such as the lack of imagination, apathy and complacency to be found in the industry, both among management and labour, are justified, but I would like to take up one point for which we can certainly not be held responsible—namely Japanese competition. The American report, in pointing out that the industry has to face increasing competition from former competitors, says "It remains to be seen whether Lancashire management can increase productivity to the point of lowering costs so as to offer goods of the type the world requires at attractive prices . . ."

This sounds logical enough—and easy enough. But it is overlooked that our foremost competitor has, with outright American aid and connivance, been quietly re-equipping herself, with the most up-to-date American machinery, using American capital, which has only been too easily forthcoming, for the purpose, while we in this country have been concentrating to the best of our ability not only on armaments production, but on making just those very textile machines which our own industry so badly needs and selling them for much-needed dollars. And not only that, Japan's old plans for a co-prosperity sphere in Asia do not look so hazy after all, for the United States is actively encouraging Japanese plans for investing both money and plants in South-East and South Asia. As one Tokyo businessman put it, "As we modernize our own plants with new American machinery, we'll take the old and invest it in South Asia"—the idea being that Japan is to develop a lot of Asia, as a sure outlet for her goods, and as a compensation for being cut off from

trade with Red China. What does that augur for the future of British trade with this region? How can we compete with a rival who is supported by American capital, whose path towards those unfair practices we remember so well, is smoothed at every turn? One could repeat endless examples of the way in which the "old" Japan has quietly been substituted for the much vaunted, democratic, "New" Japan about which we heard so much and concerning whose future role we as Allies had so little to say.

Perhaps, though, the most sinister portent is the way in which Japanese industrialists are seeking to curb the powers of trades unions. Now that the old Zaibatsu trading groups are reforming into their old pattern it should not be too difficult for them to make their wishes felt—as before the war, they will undoubtedly be left to their own devices without any official interference. And with weak trades unions, come lower living standards, starvation wages and all the other accompaniments to sweated labour which produced such profitable results for Japanese industry before the war.

The answer to this does not lie only in up-to-date equipment, in productivity drives, in "pep" talks from our American friends. We may be forgiven, I think, for finding the American attitude on this, to us, life and death matter somewhat naive. We are expected to accept without demur, the building up, at breathless haste, the production of our foremost competitor, because this is a key point of American political policy. How can we keep ahead of Japan in the technical aspects of either production or marketing, under these circumstances?

Our armament programme, for one thing, does not allow much margin for original developments. No, American policy has yet to learn that in international relations it is very difficult to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.

Yours, etc.,

"MANCUNIAN."

London, E.C.2.

INDIANS IN MALAYA (II)

By **L. S. Kanwar** (Continued from the last issue)

Three medical missions, two sponsored by the Indian National Congress and one by the Government of India, were sent to Malaya to render medical aid. Due to the above activities and interest expressed by the Indian Government and the Indian public, the whole situation influenced the Malayan Government to revise their policy towards Indians in Malaya, whose position in August, 1947, was strengthened by the appointment of Mr. John Thivy as the Indian Representative.

The vital problem facing the Indians in Malaya after India's independence has been the question as to whether they should adopt Malayan citizenship or remain with India. The crux of the question is that most of them desire the benefits of both, that is, to remain as Indian citizens, while simultaneously claiming certain rights by virtue of their residential qualifications. Dual citizenship for obvious reasons is neither desirable nor possible.

Recently the Indian Prime Minister made it clear that insofar as citizenship was concerned, the Malayan Indians must decide one way or the other, and there was no middle way.

The future is partly in their own hands. Since the majority work on the rubber plantations, the present rubber slump has had adverse effect on their livelihood. Will they tide it over as they have done in Malaya's past history? Should they choose to remain in Malaya, the country of their adoption, they have to be one with the Malays for the future good of the country, in whose legislature they are already adequately represented.

It has been suggested that the Indian community may well act as a balancing force between the Malays and the Chinese. And in order to produce a favourable reaction from the Indians, is it not in the interest of the country that the Federation should pass legislation to permit more Indians to qualify for Malayan citizenship?

Malaya has been promised self-government in the near future, and this can only be secured by bringing about harmony amongst all communities. (Concluded)

FROM ALL QUARTERS

Ceylon Revives Buddhist Holiday

Following representations made by Buddhist women's organisations, Ceylon has re-introduced Sanghamitta Day as a public holiday. The celebrations are in commemoration of Princess Sanghamitta, daughter of Emperor Asoka, who was mainly responsible for the introduction of Buddhism in Ceylon. The centre of festivities last month (December 2nd), was the ancient capital of Anuradhapura round the sacred Bo Tree which Sanghamitta herself brought from India twenty-three centuries ago.

Gift of Fujiyama to Temple

The Japanese Government made a present of the top one-fifth of the semi-sacred Fujiyama to Sengen Shrine, under the condition that the Temple must not sell the land, make a profit on it or impose restrictions on the use of the peak for recreation.

Cattle Air-Lift

A plane-load of calves was flown last month from Karachi to New Guinea. The cattle are a gift from the Pakistan Government to the Australian Government under the Colombo Plan, and were transported with infinite care by Qantas Empire Airways over the 6,000 miles' distance. This is the longest air-lift of cattle ever attempted by a scheduled air line.

Electricity for Tibet

Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, is to be electrified by next year. Two Tibetan officials have just visited Calcutta to purchase the necessary installations. At present only the Dalai Lama's palace is equipped with electric light which is produced with the help of a small generating set.

United States Investments

According to US statistics, United States investors have financial interests amounting to \$198 million in Australia, \$149 million in the Philippines, \$58 million in Indonesia and \$38 million in India.

The Year of the Serpent

Over 400,000 Japanese flocked into Tokyo's Imperial Palace to sign the visitors' books and to extend greetings to Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako during the New Year holiday. New Year is the biggest popular festival of the year in Japan, and this month, for the first time after the war, the Japanese have given themselves up to wholehearted fun and free spending. Government offices and virtually all businesses were closed for several days. Exceptions were, of course, places of entertainment and cinemas, cabarets and dance halls which were overflowing with patrons. At the same time, shrines and temples all over the country were visited by hundreds of thousands who heard temple bells and drums welcome the "year of the serpent" as 1953 is called according to the Showa calendar.

Northwest Frontier Unrest?

Afghan sources have reported that heavy fighting took place last month between Pakistani troops and pro-Pushtoonistan tribesmen. The region has been under tension for some time. According to the same sources, twelve Pakistani war planes are said to have bombed and machine-gunned a pro-Pushtoonistan meeting of tribesmen in the Tirah, causing serious casualties. Pakistan denied the report, but stated that some "punitive action" had taken place against Afghan agents who had been operating in the area. It seems to be true that last month repeated attacks by armed tribesmen were made against the Pakistani garrison in Peshawar which was forced to call for reinforcements from Rawalpindi.

Indonesia and Colombo Plan

Indonesia's decision to join the Colombo Plan has been welcomed by Mr. Casey, Australian Minister of External Affairs, who said that it had opened the way to greater economic cooperation among the countries of South-East Asia. Indonesia's Government resolved to join the Colombo Plan after a six-hour Cabinet meeting. Mr. Mononutu, Indonesian Minister of Information, stated that participation in the plan and in a new

Asia

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United States aid agreement now under negotiation, would not affect Indonesia either politically or militarily. (It will be recalled that the former Indonesian Government collapsed over the acceptance of US aid.)

production of these farmers was 9 to 12 times the Indian average.

German Consulate in Singapore

Germany is to re-open her consular office in Singapore next month. Later in the year, the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg-Amerika lines will start regular monthly passenger-cargo service between Germany and Yokohama via Singapore.

China Self-Sufficient in Food and Cotton

Chi Chao-ting, Chinese Trade Secretary, stated in Peking that China's imports from the USSR and from other Communist countries now amount to 70 per cent. of her total imports. This figure compares with 26 per cent. in 1950 and 61 per cent. in 1951. Mr. Chi said that China had achieved self-sufficiency in rice and grains. Instead of importing food, she was now able to export a surplus to India and Ceylon. He also indicated self-sufficiency in cotton, although he did not claim any exportable surplus.

Masters of Agriculture

Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, conferred the title of "Krishi Pandit" (Master of Agriculture) on six Indian farmers who produced record crops last year. Each of them also received a present of Rs. 5,000 (£375). The

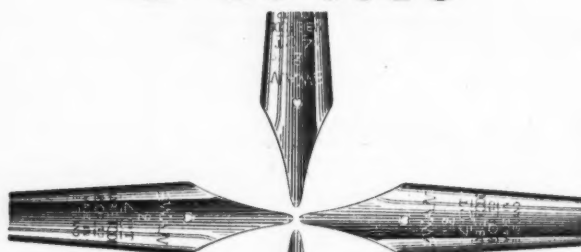
World Council of Churches

The Asian Study Conference of the World Council of Churches, which met in Lucknow, India, at the end of December, strongly condemned the racial policy at present followed by the South African Government. The Church could not associate itself with the theory of racial superiority which was "un-Christian." The Conference stressed the need for the continuation of efforts to seek a negotiated peace in Korea. Regarding the situation in Indo-China and Malaya, it pointed out that it was necessary for the colonial powers to recognise unequivocally the right of Asian nations to self-determination and to set up machinery for the transfer of power. The colonial powers should also see that national liberation was achieved in a democratic framework without the movement falling into the hands of Communists.

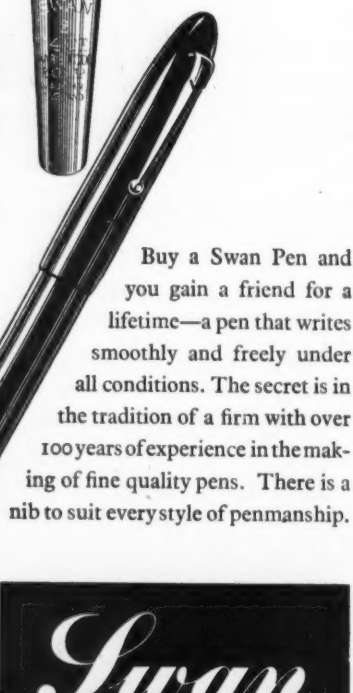
Ahmadiyyas to Defend their Rights

At the 61st Ahmadiyya Conference at Qadian, in the Punjab, the leader of the Pakistan delegation, Chaudhari Asadullah Khan, announced that his sect would not tolerate "any encroachment on their political rights in Pakistan so far as their religion was concerned." He said that while the Muslim League was a purely political body, the Ahmadiyya community was only concerned with religious affairs (see page 12).

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BOOKS on the

A Documentary History of Chinese Communism by CONRAD BRANDT, BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ and JOHN K. FIRBANK (Allen and Unwin, 42s.)

It is heartening to find wise counsel on the subject of Communist China coming from the United States in face of such superficial assessment of the Chinese situation as has emanated in the recent past from a powerful group of American political and military men. Mr. Schwartz, whose book, *Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao*, written about two years ago and now an indispensable work on the understanding of the Chinese scene, has here, with Mr. Brandt, a colleague at the Russian Research Centre at Harvard, and Mr. Firbank, produced a volume which deserves to find a large circle of readers among not only those who are primarily concerned with the study of China, but among those in the West who have to formulate policy towards that country and students of international affairs to whom China is a looming question-mark in the East's relations with the West.

The authors have set out, in this large book, forty key documents, mostly translated from Chinese (but some from Russian and Japanese), which "mark significant stages" in the "ideological development of the Communist movement in China" over the past 30 years, and have interspersed them with critical and explanatory commentaries which give a perfectly clear picture of the trends of the movement up to the middle of 1950.

Document number one is the first manifesto of the Chinese Communist Party, dated June, 1922; and the last documents, 39 and 40, are Mao's pronouncement of July 1, 1949, on the People's Democratic Dictatorship, and the Organic Law of the Central People's Government, passed by the Political Consultative Conference on September 27th, 1949.

Perhaps the most important fact to emerge from this book is that the revolution in China was no uncharacteristic phenomenon; the country was ready for an upheaval in its social, political and cultural structure, and it only remained for the CCP "to capture and control the leadership." Views differed on where its main support would lie. Throughout the 1920's the Comintern insisted that the raw material for revolution was to be found in the city proletariat. Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh, on the other hand, believed it to be with the peasant population, and it was only after the total failure of Li Li-san, who headed the CCP at the end of the 'twenties and the beginning of the 'thirties, to overcome the obdurate indifference of the urban proletariat that Mao was able, through his own adaptation of Marxist-Leninist doctrine, to give an impetus to the revolution which reached its culmination under his leadership and philosophy after the defeat of the Japanese. The traditional nationalism of the Chinese was used as a rallying point for revolutionary support, and the modern student class—"heirs of the Chinese

FAR EAST

cultural tradition" and "natural exponents of modern Chinese nationalism"—supplied the leadership to the peasants who became the soldiers as well as the providers of the food. The combination (as concluded by Professor Fitzgerald in a recent book) of peasants and intellectuals without whose dual support no Chinese dynasty has ever flourished.

In the success of the revolution in China lies the story of the differences of view between Peking and Moscow, and although the authors of this book are, not unnaturally, wary of predicting the eventual relationship between the two hierarchies, no doubt exists who will direct the forces of Communism in East Asia.

J. W. T. COOPER

Indian Thought and its Development by ALBERT SCHWEITZER (*Adam and Charles Black*, 15s.)

This impressive and characteristic study of Indian thought has recently been made available again after a lapse of several years. It should be read in conjunction with the author's *Civilisation and Ethics* in which he shows that a synthesis between Eastern and Western thought is possible. In the present volume, Dr. Schweitzer examines critically Indian thought, the problems which it has to face and how it deals with them. At the same time, he discusses the great personalities such as Ramakrishna, Tagore and Gandhi in whom these ideas are embodied. Dr. Schweitzer points out that just as there has been little attempt to understand the Indian way of thinking, dismissing it as being governed by the idea of both world and life negation, so no real endeavour has been made from the Indian side to understand Western thought and its immensely varied philosophical systems. The essential approach of the author to his subject can be summed up in his own words:—

"When Western and Indian philosophy engage in disputation, they must not contend in the spirit that aims at the one proving itself right in opposition to the other. Both are guardians of valuable treasures of thought. But both must be moving along the path towards a way of thinking which shall pass beyond all the differences of the historical past and eventually be shared in common by all mankind. . . . For there must indeed arise a philosophy profounder and more living than our own and endowed with greater spiritual and ethical force. In this terrible period through which mankind is passing we must all keep a look-out for the coming of this more perfect and more powerful form of thought which will conquer the hearts of individuals and compel whole peoples to acknowledge its sway. It is for this that we must strive."

By his life and his work, and the ideals for which he has striven, Dr. Schweitzer is a living testament of his own search for Truth.

J. H. MARCHANT

The Mask of a Lion by A. T. W. SIMEONS (*Gollancz*, 12s. 6d.)

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becomes an outcast and a beggar, Dr. Simeons has avoided both pitfalls and against a well-defined Indian background has drawn a picture of anguish and despair, and finally, hope. When Govind, an industrious and thriving tailor, discovers that he is a leper, he is immediately cast off by his associates. He is left to his own devices and since there is little provision for lepers and practically no attempt to segregate them, he is forced to become a beggar. He joins a group of other lepers, and the way in which he adapts himself to his new life, even feeling joy and delight in the countryside through which he travels and his attempt to reconcile himself to his miserable lot, are described with insight and sympathy for Indian ways and customs. It is pleasing to add that there is a happy ending, and one may hope that the story of Govind will show how modern science can bring life and hope to thousands of sufferers. L. K. TRIER

A Simple Malay Reader by SIR RICHARD WINSTEDT (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 8s. 6d.)

A new edition of this well-known Reader, to which an English translation has been added for the benefit of first year students. Folk tales and folk verse have been included as supplying an introduction to the vocabulary and speech of the countryside, together with graduated examples of Malay prose on such modern and realistic topics as geography, war and science, although as Sir Richard points out in the Preface, the advanced student cannot do better than use the Reader as a jumping-off ground for the lucid and idiomatic prose of the *Sejarah Melayu* and the *Hikayat Bayan Budiman*. R.F.C.

Jungle Road to Tokyo by LIEUT.-GENERAL ROBERT L. EICHELBERGER (Odhams, 15s.)

The Commander of the American Eighth Army here describes the difficulties of the campaign which started in the swamps of Buna, and swept through the Pacific to final victory. An infantryman's life in any army is considered the least desirable and even in the American Army, it was mostly footslogging from one island assault to the next. General Eichelberger shared the perils and discomforts of his men and gives a first-hand account of the exploits of the Eighth Army, culminating in the surrender of Japan. K. C. MANTON

Review of Reviews

A STUDENT of current Asian affairs cannot be content to sit on the pinnacle of his knowledge without the surety that its historical foundations are secure. Sometimes, it seems, that to have absorbed the general history of an area, a country or its people is not enough; to become acquainted with more particular events in the past is not only satisfying and advantageous, but often relevant to current study. Some of the most interesting historical and background articles on Asia appear in those journals that are the organs of particular societies whose sphere of reference is Asia.

There is something rather personal about most of these journals. They have news and notices pertaining

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to their own societies which do not seem to invite the eyes of the non-member; there are reports of meetings, account sheets and often obituary notices of members. The articles, or reports of talks and lectures, although not in the least directed exclusively to members are often of a very erudite, scholarly and esoteric nature.

The *Ceylon Historical Journal* (vol. 1, No. 4), for instance, has, *inter alia*, articles on the "South India pepper trade under the protection of the ships blockading Goa, 1636-1644"; "Tantrism in Ceylon and Tisa Veva Lithic Diagram"; the signatures of the Kings of Ceylon, and a "Note on two passages of Pliny and Strabo relating to Taprobana." Of these articles, the one on the pepper trade is perhaps the most interesting for the student of general Asian affairs. Mr. T. I. Poonen, of the University of Madras, relates how during the blockading of Goa by the Dutch in the middle of the seventeenth century, and the strangling of Portuguese power and trade on the Indian west coast and Ceylon, pepper, a great profit earner, was something to be prized and fought over.

Among articles on the Egyptian Uffatah flute, the pre-Indian basis of Khmer culture and the Tibetan inscriptions at Vza-hi Lha Khan, in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (parts 3 & 4, 1952), A. S. Bennell writes of Wellesley's settlement of Mysore after the defeat of Tipu Sultan in 1799.

The University of Manila produce a very ambitious quarterly called *Journal of East Asiatic Studies* which has fewer articles on archaic subjects than most other journals. Analysing two issues of 1952 (Nos. 3 and 4), there were articles on anthropological and archeological subjects, one on ceramics, others on agriculture, economics, and in issue number four, a preliminary analysis of the south Moluccan insurrection in Indonesia.

In the *Middle East Journal* (vol. 6, No. 4), published by the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., Vladimir Cervin makes clear the difficulties the ruling clan (government) of Afghanistan has in trying to integrate the various tribes and ethnic groups into a nation. Although Afghanistan is not one of the new post-war nations, it has still not overcome those problems which face countries like Burma, India and Pakistan who have achieved independence since the war. The political structure in Afghanistan seems closely akin to that in Nepal.

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THE EIGHT IMMORTALS

By David Parry

IN Chinese painting, in porcelain decoration, in the works of the craftsmen in jade and lacquer, no personages feature more prominently than the Eight Immortals of Taoism, whose popularity now extends over hundreds of years. If, in a typical instance, they are shown together, as when paying homage to Shou Lao, God of Longevity, there are also many studies of the individual members of this famous group. Moreover, each possesses his or her own niche in legend and story, the tales recounting adventures and experiences in widely differing earthly spheres.

Apart from their dress and general appearance, the identification of the Eight *Hsien*, as they are sometimes called, is simplified by the existence of certain special attributes with which they are immediately associated in the Chinese mind. Li T'ieh-kuai is no exception, for, in addition to a gourd for his medicines, he walks with the aid of an iron crutch. His lameness is variously explained, but most accounts agree that he was once a handsome figure, only assuming his present form when, in the absence of the spirit, his original body was destroyed. Perhaps

it was humility that prompted him to enter the corpse of a beggar he had raised from the dead. At all events, his skill in alchemy makes him an ideal choice as the patron saint of those who practise the healing art.

Legend connects Li T'ieh-kuai, commonly styled the Beggar Immortal, with Chang Kuo of the drum and drumsticks—the instrument itself consisting of a fish-skin stretched over a bamboo frame. Chang, whilst still a man, is said to have received from Li a pill enabling him to do all manner of wonderful things. Although, like his seven companions, he enjoys the power of flight, he is often depicted astride his magic mule, a beast capable of travelling at incredible speed. After completing a journey of hundreds even thousands of miles in a single day, the remarkable steed could be folded away like a shadow-puppet until required again.

Whereas Li T'ieh-kuai's dates are unknown, Chang Kuo is thought to have attained immortality in about 750 A.D. Lu Tung-pin, too, is believed to have lived in the 8th century, his emblem a sword slung on his back. With this weapon he slew many monsters and demons, a particularly delightful story relating how, in the early days of the Ming Dynasty, it was transformed into a razor which shaved the Emperor Hung Wu. This exalted person had been suffering from a painful disease of the scalp. As a result of the intervention of Lu Tung-pin, acting on the orders of the Jade Emperor, the patient was cured at once—much to the relief of the Court barbers who had had to endure his mounting wrath. From this time onwards, so we are told, Lu has been worshipped by all engaged in the hairdressing trade.

In his lifetime Lu Tung-pin was renowned as a scholar, not as a warrior, his prowess in swordsmanship being acquired from another Immortal, Chung-li Ch'uan. A distinguished military commander in Chou or Han times, this general was at the end of his career heavily defeated in battle, his subsequent experiences helping to convince him of the futility of war. In common with the rest of the *Pa Hsien* he grew to prefer the quiet of the countryside to the bustle of cities and the intrigue of the Court. A clever alchemist, he is mostly portrayed as a stout, scantily dressed man holding a peach of immortality, a *ling chih* fungus, or a fly-whisk or fan. These symbols occur again and again in Chinese art, for both the peach and the *ling chih* are supposed actually to prolong life, while in the hands of certain characters the fly-whisk may be used to revive the dead.

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If Li T'ieh-kuai, Lu Tung-pin and Chung-li Ch'uan were celebrated alchemists, so, too, was Han Hsiang Tzu. Mostly pictured as quite a young man, he was in fact the nephew of Han Yu, author and philosopher of the T'ang Dynasty, performing many a clever trick before his uncle to demonstrate his knowledge of magic and his ability as a seer. Evidently he had a fondness for playing on the strings, but in the characteristic porcelain statuettes of the 17th and 18th centuries his regard for music is signified by the flute which he rests on his shoulder, smiling as though in anticipation of placing it to his lips.

With the exception of the Beggar Immortal and Chung-li Ch'uan, alias Han Chung-li, all the Eight Hsien are frequently shown wearing pleasing, even extravagant attire—quite in keeping for a person of the status of Ts'ao Kuo-chiu, reputedly a close relative of an Empress of Sung times. A pure and good man who does not seem to have had the flair for adventure of, say, Lu Tung-pin, his attributes are a pair of clappers or castanets.

Like his colleagues, Ts'ao eagerly exchanged the luxuries of civilization for the peace and tranquillity of the woods and fields, completely at home in the Taoist Paradise commonly referred to as *Shou Shan*. Depicted on countless occasions in Chinese art, the actual treatment of these Hills of Longevity varies a good deal, but nearly always there is a wide expanse of water spanned by a bridge. Attractive, gaily ornamented pavilions nestle beneath the branches of tall, stately pines, while sometimes we can pick out a deer, one of Shou Lao's familiars, and perhaps a flying crane. The artist, whether painter, lapidary or silk-weaver, will hardly have omitted the tree which bears the famed peach of immortality—nor, for that matter, the Twin Genii of Union and Harmony, youthful-looking rascals who carry respectively a box and broom. Often included, too, are Liu Hai and his three-legged toad, all figures, whatever their importance, dwarfed by the mountains which form such an imposing backcloth as they rise to meet the sky.

Superior to ordinary folk on account of some special quality or other, Hsien, of which a very large number are recognised by the Chinese in addition to the famous Eight, did not always find it easy to escape from the palace atmosphere. Looked upon as a paragon of filial piety because of the sacrifices she made for her sick mother, even the virgin, Ho Hsien-ku, received a summons to attend the Imperial Court of the reigning T'angs. It is said of her that she conquered all desire in early youth, learning to subsist on a diet of crushed pearls. Occasionally her symbol is represented as the lotus, more often as a ladle-shaped basket containing all manner of emblems of longevity.

The reason for the Chinese reverence for age is not far to seek, for in the face of continual wars and disasters it was a considerable achievement to bear the weight of advancing years. As to why there should be Eight Immortals, not seven or nine, the answer, clearly, is that eight was a favourite number for groups of people and objects. In the latter category, for example, we have the Eight



(Courtesy of the Victoria & Albert Museum)

A Chinese woven silk picture, giving a characteristic impression of the Taoist paradise

Musical Instruments, the Eight Buddhist Emblems, and the Eight Precious Things.

Even if the qualifications of several of them are now a trifle obscure, it is obvious that the Eight Immortals were gradually chosen by common consent, Chung-li Ch'uan representing the Army, Lü Tung-pin the Civil Service, and so on. Certainly the list would not be complete without the cultivator, Lan Ts'ai-ho, whose journey to heaven was apparently accomplished on the back of a white crane—a creature which, along with the deer and tortoise, frequently enjoys the company of Shou Lao himself. Lan's hoe has been confused with the ladle of Ho Hsien-ku, but in reality the two are quite opposite personalities, the former an habitué of the roadside inn. In this respect he is not alone, for most of his comrades have discovered in the wine-pot a sure and pleasant means of setting aside care.

THE ORIGINS OF THE MUSLIM AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT

By W. A. Garstin

RELIGIOUS fanaticism is endemic in the Muslim world. Even in republican Turkey it is latent and not ignorable. Elsewhere is to be found an active body of extreme religious conservatism in bitter opposition to modernist trends. Almost in a moment can be whipped up among the common people a storm of fanatical emotionalism fraught with serious consequences—such as we have seen in Lower Egypt and in Persia. And now attention has been drawn to an increasing fanatical influence during the last two years in the newest Islamic State, Pakistan, which augurs ill for the further advancement of this Dominion.

In Western Pakistan it is directed against a sect generally known as the Ahmadiyya who are regarded by the extreme conservative orthodox Muslims as hated heretics. The very designation by which the sect call themselves is to the orthodox anathema. What is of special moment is that the extreme orthodox have singled out for attack the best-known member of the Ahmadiyya community Chaudhri Sir Mahomed Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister. This move is the more to be deplored because Sir Zafrullah Khan is Pakistan's representative in the vital Kashmir dispute with India still pending before the Security Council of the UN.

The Ahmadiyya movement is not a recent development. It has been in existence for over sixty years. Its founder Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was born in 1836 in Qadian, a village in the Gurdaspur district of the Punjab, north-east of Amritsar. Ghulam Ahmad claimed Persian descent from a Moghul family from Samarkand which came to India about the time of the first Moghul invader Babar. He began life as a Vaulvi (one versed in Muslim canon law). Eventually he claimed a tripartite manifestation as the promised Mahdi (literally, spiritual and temporal leader, i.e. here Messiah) of the Muslims, the promised Messiah of the Christians, and for the Hindus the *Kalki* Avatar (the last incarnation or descent of Vishnu on earth). The Hindus regarded his avatar claim as preposterous. In his Christology he declared that Jesus though crucified did not die on the cross, but was surreptitiously carried away out of Palestine to Kashmir where he died a natural death at the age of 120. The Mirza identified the tomb of the Muslim saint Yus Asaf in Srinagar as the place of Jesus' burial. He preached strongly against Christian tenets, Hinduism, and the Shiah sect of Islam. He also opposed the teaching of English.

The "Prophet of Qadian" wrote voluminously and was immersed in controversy with and challenge to the orthodox maulvis. His chief work, the *Burhan-i-Ahma-*

diyya (Proof of Ahmadiyya), he began in 1880. He completed and published it in 1884. But owing to the fierce opposition of his opponents the movement itself did not come into being until 1889 when he was over fifty.

To him the Koran was the repository of all knowledge. He professed to re-interpret it to meet all the perplexities of a new and changing age. It was his mission, as the final seal of all the Prophets before him, to lead the nations of the world to a True Islam (surrender of oneself to God and to His will) and to purify interpretations of the Koran from all extraneous errors, false exegesis, and irrelevant interpolations. The Day of Resurrection was at hand. On the whole his doctrinal teaching did not differ greatly from the views of orthodox reformers. A capital difference was his repudiation of *jihad* (holy war). He was a pacifist. Islam should be spread by peaceful means, and the expected Mahdi would not be armed with a sword. He was further opposed to the worship of saints.

His professions of faith were marked by prophecies of epidemics and earthquakes, and also the divination of a person's death. In one such instance it seems to have been too well founded, for the fulfilment of the prophecy of the death by violence of a certain opponent led to the Mirza's being tried for murder on a charge preferred by some Christian missionaries. He was acquitted of the charge. The bitter opposition to his pretensions by the orthodox Ulama (Muslim doctors of law, etc.) in India culminated in their issuing a *fatwa* (official canonical declaration) against him, branding him as a heretic.

He died in 1908. He was succeeded in the headship by his chief colleague and adviser Maulvi Nur Din, an Arabic scholar and an eminent physician. Maulvi Nur Din died in 1914. His successor was Maulvi Mahomed Ahmad, the present head of the Ahmadiyya community with the style and title of Khilayat ul-Masih II (the second khalif-Messiah).

The movement has gained a great many adherents in every part of the Muslim world. And that not only among the humble and illiterate. Many highly-educated, gifted men of every walk of life, persons of position and eminence, are its devoted members. The headquarters of the community remain at Qadian. It is in Western Pakistan particularly that the sect meets with the continued hatred of the extreme puritanical and conservative orthodox elements. These reject the designation Ahmadiyya (or Ahmadi)—Ahmad being a name in the Koran under which Mohammed is spoken of by Jesus, Koran LXI, 6—and always refer to the sect derogatorily as "Qadianis."

Over many years the writer has had direct experience of the extremes to which in India (now Pakistan) a narrow "clericalism"—only there are no "clergy" in Islam—can go among Muslims of intolerant and narrow-minded orthodoxy. Such as they view with grave disfavour the translating of the Koran into a foreign script. They hold strongly that the Koran being the very words of Allah the sanctity of its sacred text should not be profaned by being subjected to the impurities and imperfections of translation. They object to an unbeliever so much as handling, let alone possessing, a volume of the sacred book.

On the other hand the Ahmadiyyas are zealous mis-

sionaries and have no scruples in not only translating but, for the benefit of those who may be acquiring Arabic, in transliterating the Koran. Many such valuable publications have come from the Ahmadiyya Press of Lahore.

In this article no attempt whatever has been made to assess the present day tenets, position and strength of the Ahmadiyya movement. The writer is not in a position to do so. The object has been solely to go back to its historical origins and to make the general reader aware of a situation in Pakistan which if not firmly and masterly handled may lead on to consequences disastrous to the continued progress of the Dominion.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

By V. G. Vaidya

"HOW can you dare to suggest you should marry that girl," cried Bhalerao. "You a spoon-fed brat without a hair on your lip or a wisdom tooth out—you try to teach me wisdom. You can't even earn your own living and yet you want me to marry you."

"If I cannot marry her I swear by two fathers I will never marry at all," shouted Haibathi in reply.

"Then you are no longer my son. I shall disinherit you. What father will you find willing to marry his daughter to a penniless orphan?"

"A man of firm fist and strong wrist needs no inheritance. I have the strength to bring forth water whenever I stamp my foot. Count me as dead to you indeed if you will not agree," answered Haibathi, and strode from the house with the tread of Hanuman, God of Strength.

Our village of Tandalwadi had its full share of Goondas or gangsters. They lived by illicit distilling, plundering distant villages and other forms of crime. During the underground campaign against the British they used the battle cry "Mahatma Gandhi Kijai," and after Gandhi's murder they retained the same pretext for plundering the Brahmins—as if in revenge—since it was a Brahmin who murdered the Mahatma.

Still, as the proverb says, he who lives in water should not make enemies of the fish, and Brahmin Bhalerao, the village schoolmaster, performed a dexterous tight-rope act of keeping in with all parties. Indeed his good salary, and his prosperous crops were more of an eyesore than an example to his fellows. And, while he won prizes in the Government "Grow More Food Campaign," he was always ill at ease till the produce was safely home.

Bhalerao was a great man for surnames and had changed his own from the corrupt Surveshe to the ancient

form Sur-ianshi—descendant of the sun. When his son fell in love with the daughter of Abagirao, whose surname was Jadhava, Bhalerao reasoned that Jadhava was a degenerate rendering of Ladava, the family name of Bhagwan Shri Krishna, and therefore the Jadhavas must be inferior to the Yadavas and naturally the Suryanshis. Thus although the whole village respected Abagirao, a Subadar retired from the army with rows of medal ribbons, Bhalerao was determined his son should not marry into a family so inferior.

Detached scandal-mongers had a different explanation. They reasoned from Bhalerao's lack of moustaches that he must be impotent, that Haibathi could not be his son, and in any case no mere son could ever have so opposed a real father of such high caste. Although in fact Bhalerao shaved in order to show his up-to-dateness he did not care to embark on an explanation.

It happened that Bhalerao received Departmental orders to expound the main principles of the New Indian Constitution to the higher classes of his school. He extended the audience to the rest of the village and held the people spellbound with his discourse on freedom, fraternity, equal rights, equal opportunities, etc., etc. So still had the audience sat, and so calm, that Bhalerao was convinced he had regained his former popularity. By evening he had lost the irritation caused by the quarrel with his son and was contemplating his future with a benign tranquillity. Suddenly the peace was shattered by familiar yells of "Mahatma Gandhi Ji Kijai," and the Brahmin found himself surrounded by crowds of peasants bearing swords, guns and spears.

Bhalerao could not undertake this and like Arjuna on the field of Kuruk-Shetra, he was astonished to see among the opposition his own kinsmen—they who had applauded his speech barely two hours earlier. While he was still collecting his wits a huge dark figure with rolled-up sleeves addressed him thus:

The author, one of India's young writers, is an army doctor in Bombay State. He has published a number of plays and short stories.

"We know your wicked sons have been eyeing our daughters with vicious intention. We dare not let our girls abroad in the village. Why do you not curb these boys?"

"Because your sons have education—does that give them the right to send love-letters to our carefully nurtured girls?" cried one Jagderao waving a bundle of letters at the armed onlookers.

"Letters! Things still worse have blackened our faces," cried the humiliated uncle of Miss Mohana Jadhava.

"Where is that bloody villain Haibathi? If I had him now I would splinter his skull like a coconut and hand you, his father, the pieces," roared Abajirao, leaving no one in doubt of what a military man would do to protect his family's reputation.

The headmaster, feigning ignorance, asked for an explanation.

"You'll know when you've all been murdered," answered an enthusiastic spearman.

However, Karakadar, with the authority of his grey beard, calmed the assembly saying, "Be sensible. We are here to arrange a marriage, not a battle."

"A marriage then—or else we fight," cried one, and in this strained atmosphere began the discussion on the possibility of betrothing Mohana, disqualified by alleged low birth, to Haibathi, who seemed likely to be murdered.

Now Haibathi was a handsome fellow and an athlete, and many mothers had thought "What a good match for my daughter!" Mohana's mother was one of these, and in this age of inflation when dowries increased with the age and looks of the bride she had thrown him and her daughter together as much as possible. Indeed she had been in the habit of calling him son-in-law.

When Haibathi told his sweetheart's mother about his quarrel with his father she was placed in a painful dilemma. She did not want to lose Haibathi as a son-in-law, nor did she want a disinherited son-in-law. So leaving nothing to chance she had arranged the gathering of armed men and—equally powerful—the collection of love-letters. In a village community even to talk to girls is a crime, while to write them letters is regarded not only as an abuse of the art of writing, but as a crime against society as well, since arranging the marriage of innocent children is the prerogative of their elders. Bhalerao could not stand up against the written evidence of the letters in the hands of those who had appointed themselves judges under arms. Indeed, as his wife and brother-in-law pointed out, to refuse would be the ruin of him. No one would cultivate his land and he would be out-casted.

Thus convinced, he unwillingly signed the marriage contract. Although the bride's party could have made the headmaster sign on any terms, to show their magnanimity they put the dowry at the respectable sum of 3,000 rupees. At the sight of this figure, Bhalerao's doubts of the Jadhavas' standing melted away, but at the very instant he was

reading the contract Haibathi rushed in and snatching the document tore it to pieces crying:

"Since they will not let me marry without an estate, let them marry my father to the girl. The property is his. I am legally a major and no one can make me marry against my will."

So saying, Haibathi embraced his little brother, and threw himself at his father's feet for forgiveness.

This unexpected calamity baffled the armed men, and Haibathi went on, "Father, I was about to kill you and my brother also, but I have repented. Mohana's mother would not believe in the strength of my wrist. She would not think of a son-in-law without an inheritance. So she took me aside and gave me a powder to poison you and my brother in order that I should inherit. At first I agreed, but as I realised that to marry Mohana I should have to commit this crime, I resolved to take the powder myself. Just as I was feeling for it in my pockets, I was told that the village gangsters were forcing your consent to the marriage. Now that is utterly impossible."

The people who had obtained Bhalerao's unwilling consent by bribing him with a dowry, were far from willing to believe Haibathi's story. The question was no longer one between Haibathi and Mohana. Subadar Jadhava's whole reputation was at stake. But when Haibathi threw the poison before them and strode away, no one dared hinder him.

They had believed the love-letters were real without reading them, and they took the powder for arsenic without examining it. However, all this created great confusion in the minds of those who had assembled to bring about marriage or murder. And although one said, "This is only sugar, not arsenic," kicking it aside, the meeting broke up in chaos.

Though for the moment defeated, Mohana's brother cried out, twisting his moustache like a warrior.

"See, brethren, father and son arranged this plot to thrust sticks into our nostrils. But I give them warning that do what they may, we will bring this marriage to pass even if we have to tie them to a tree."

A young man said, "You can take a horse to the water but you cannot make him drink."

"We'll make him drink," retorted Mohana's brother.

"But the bird is out of the cage."

"We will bring him out of Hell itself," cried the raging crowd, brandishing their weapons as they poured away.

And now? The headmaster is desperately asking his department for a transfer. The brave Haibathi who came to his father's rescue is hiding to save himself from marriage or murder. The girl's family are sharpening their weapons in preparation for the wedding. Mohana, who had almost enjoyed freedom to select her own mate, is back in the ancestral zenana with her food being tested daily for poison. "The Republican police?" you wonder. They have taken no cognizance of this non-cognizable social autocracy, as nothing had happened for them to intervene

ECONOMIC SECTION

The World's Lost Crops

By George Ordish

(Agricultural Economist, Plant Protection Ltd.)

IT is a well known fact that the population of the world is growing very rapidly, at the rate of about 50,000 per day, and that the area of agricultural land is not capable of anything like the same degree of expansion. This is nowhere more marked than in the East, where plans for improving the standard of living must start from a larger quantity of agricultural produce. Increasing population alone makes severe demands on our present agricultural resources, but when we add to this factor the destructiveness of a modern war, we can see that the situation is indeed serious. It is also a matter of common observation that insects, diseases and weeds attack crops and reduce yields, and we can see that one way to increase the output



United Nations

Entomologists examine dead locusts in a Pakistan desert

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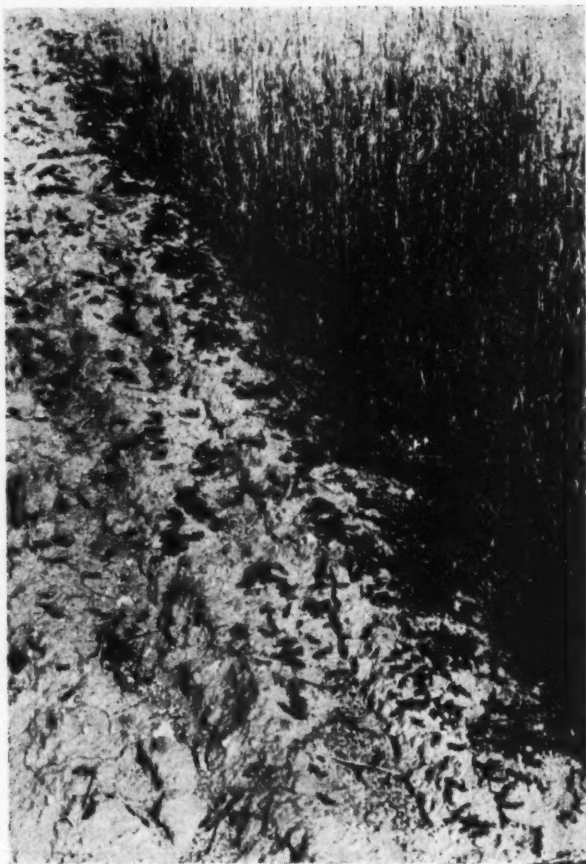


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A field infested with locusts

United Nations

from our available land is to reduce these losses of valuable crops.

There is nothing new in these attacks, as is sometimes thought: they were as, or more, severe in the past. The Bible has many references to locusts, mildew and the palmerworm attacking crops, as has also Pliny in his compendium—the "Natural History." Old Chinese manuscripts refer repeatedly to the attacks of insects and diseases of crops.

Throughout the world today there is a large body of men and women at work to overcome these troubles, and Britain has not only made considerable advances in the past, but is still contributing to the fight against the world's pests.

The methods of plant protection are many, but fall into three main classes, which are:

- (i) *Mechanical methods*, such as substituting a less attacked for a heavily attacked crop, or for instance sowing at a special time to avoid a pest, or hoeing against weeds.
- (ii) *Biological methods*, such as using resistant or immune varieties of plants: the potatoes immune to wart disease (an English discovery) are an example. Insect pests may sometimes be controlled by introducing other insects which are parasites and predators of the pest, and the clearing of three pests in Fiji which were threatening to wipe out the coconut crop was a notable achievement of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology some twenty-five years ago.
- (iii) *Chemical methods*, that is, the spraying or dusting of crops to control insects, diseases and weeds.

The literature on all these methods of plant protection is extensive, and today we know some technical method or other for overcoming nearly all these pests. We have, however, scarcely studied the economics of the subject as a whole, and it is of interest to note that this has now been started in Britain; in addition, an Economics Section was instituted at the Third International Congress of Crop Protection held recently in Paris, and our Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Pathological Laboratory is busy collecting information on pest incidence.

The world losses due to pests are difficult to assess as we have so few statistics, and they are also difficult to express in terms which will be realistic. If it is found from a survey that a pest is doing, say, 10 per cent of damage, that the average crop is x tons worth $£y$ per ton over z acres, the value of the amount of the damage done is not the number of tons lost multiplied by the average price, because if there had been all these extra tons on the market the price might well have been much lower. The real loss is the extra acres which have to be used to grow

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The science of plant protection



FRIEND OR FOE?

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sufficient crop to meet the demand. These extra acres are in fact producing no crop, they represent an "untaken harvest," and in a recent book of that name I estimate that the world's annual loss of crops is at least equivalent to the loss of all the production of the USA.

Science has and is taking steps to overcome these losses, and I give below some information on British achievements in this respect. I have already mentioned the mechanical and biological methods, so I will deal with the chemical ones where much progress has been made in the last decade. Two very important discoveries were made during the war by the research workers of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. The first was the powerful insecticide benzene hexachloride or "Gammexane." This was first used as a substitute for derris in flea-beetle control, but was soon used against wireworms, cotton pests and many other insects. It is now exported in considerable quantities, and is the mainstay of the campaign against locusts in the Middle East.

The second discovery by the same organization was the synthetic hormone weedkillers, which are now everyday articles on farms throughout the world. These mate-

rials, which were found during the work at Jealott's Hill on rooting hormones, at quantities around one pound per acre kill many families of plants, but are quite harmless to the grasses. Consequently, fields of cereals, sugar cane or lawns can be weeded by spraying with small amounts of these substances, and in fact British crops are increased each year by half a million tons of grain.

British achievements have not stopped there. Shortly after the war Dr. Ripper took certain German organic phosphorus compounds and developed "systemic insecticides" from them. These substances are absorbed by the plant, render it toxic to insects and are a valuable weapon in many cases. Our research workers are still active and are now on the track of "systemic fungicides."

The British chemical industry not only provides a wide range of products which keep our own crops healthy but also exports them far and wide. The value of such exports for 1951 was £5 million. When these figures are translated to terms of actual benefit to farmers in the field, which means multiplying the figure by at least 4 and probably by 8 or 10, the benefits obtained show the real value in terms of increased produce.

NORTHERN IRELAND AND ASIA

By A Special Correspondent

EXECUTIVES of Northern Ireland's industry are very much alive to the importance of Asian and Pacific markets, and are anxious to develop the trade with that area. This attitude is fully shared by officials in Northern Ireland, where, as your correspondent could observe during his recent visit to Belfast, the Minister of Commerce and his staff are always available to discuss with businessmen any problems which may arise. The exports of the textile and engineering industries to Asia are of long standing, and the names of many Northern Ireland firms are well-known to Asian importers and industrialists. In addition to old established firms, a number of English and Scottish firms have opened branch factories in Northern Ireland since the end of the war. The Northern Ireland Government has assisted these firms by providing buildings on very favourable terms. The experience gained during this process could be studied by the Asian Governments for application in their countries.

Textile Exports

In the late 'forties, linen exports were considerably higher than in the pre-war years. While prior to the war the annual exports to the Indian sub-continent, South-East Asia, the Far East and the South-West Pacific (including Australia and New Zealand) amounted to £1.3 million, they reached the value of £3.5 million during the 1948-9 period. The recent recession in the textile trade hit Northern Ireland's textile industry, but the industry weathered this crisis better than that of the 'twenties,

which is a proof of higher efficiency, a greater range of products and greater flexibility in the changed conditions in the world market.

The following table shows the value of UK linen goods exports during 1951 and the first half of 1952, broken down into goods of Northern Ireland type and those which are not normally looked upon as typical N. Ireland goods. (There are no special statistics for N. Ireland's foreign trade, as all these figures are included in the UK statistics.)

Country of destination	Northern Ireland type linen goods		Other goods (mainly heavy canvas and canvas products) not normally produced in Northern Ireland		Total United Kingdom exports	
	Jan./June		Jan./June		Jan./June	
	1951 £	1952 £	1951 £	1952 £	1951 £	1952 £
Hong Kong	238,714	158,340	78,294	67,871	317,008	226,211
Thailand	187,708	105,085	10,460	5,120	198,168	110,205
India	61,815	29,279	108,249	75,589	170,064	104,868
Turkey	75,094	55,926	59,617	19,445	134,711	75,371
Israel	21,021	6,412	99,655	21,333	120,676	27,745
Iraq	23,822	14,645	48,365	44,009	72,187	58,654
Jordan	13,180	6,824	26,810	14,019	39,990	20,843
Saudi Arabia	1,199	4,535	6,966	2,981	8,165	7,516
Japan	6,029	7,004	1,391	1,417	7,420	8,421
China	3,955	799	74	—	4,029	799

It is interesting to note the increase of exports to Hong Kong, Thailand and Japan. In the past, large quantities of linen goods were imported by China and Hong Kong. These goods were embroidered there and then re-exported to the USA and Canada. The industry hopes that this trade, which has been reduced owing to the political situation, will expand again in the future when political tension lessens.

The table does not include Australia and New Zealand, important markets of Northern Ireland's textile industry. Australia's decision to drastically reduce her imports, which was taken at the beginning of 1952, was a severe blow, but it is hoped that following an improvement in Australia's trade balance and the recent Commonwealth Economic Conference in London, a more liberal import policy beneficial to Northern Ireland's textile industry will be shortly announced.

There are indications that 1953 will witness an upward trend of exports in the linen and other branches of the textile industry. The Asian market can be developed even if the bulk of the population in several countries has not the buying power for high quality linen goods. The industry has diversified the range of its products in recent years, and this, together with an intensified export drive directed towards these countries, should increase exports to Asia and the Far East.

Engineering Products

Textile machinery, equipment for tea estate, fans and ventilating equipment are the main engineering products which are exported from Northern Ireland to Asia and the

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Pacific. The textile machinery industry which has equipped many factories in Northern Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom, has built up a considerable export business, and Northern Ireland textile machinery is to be found in many textile enterprises of Asia and the Pacific. Specially designed machinery for jute mills has a traditional market on the Indian sub-continent. Among the leading firms in this industry are James Mackie & Sons Ltd. who manufacture all types of machines for the processing of indigenous bast and leaf fibres—jute, hemp, flax, etc., in bast, and sisal, manilla, etc., in leaf—into yarn, twine, cordage, rope, fabric and sacks. In connection with the industrialisation of Asian countries, there is a growing demand for machinery to manufacture rope, cordage and twine, which were made by hand in the past. In addition to the Indian sub-continent, Australia and New Zealand represent important markets for this firm. Fairbairn, Law-

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son, Combe, Barbour Ltd. (the Head Office of this concern is in Leeds) had a good market for their machinery in China before the war. At present India and Pakistan represent an important market for the firm's jute machinery.

The post-war need for re-equipment of tea estates in S.E. Asia and the Far East has brought substantial orders to Davidson & Co. Ltd., the world's largest manufacturers of machinery for tea estate factories. This firm exports not only machines for every stage in the preparation of the tea leaf, but also undertakes to design and build tea factories. Ventilating plants for coal mines and coffee-curing machinery are other examples of the large range of export goods of this firm.

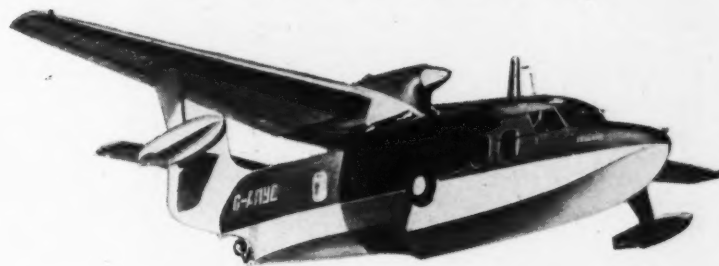
Ships and Aircraft

The shipbuilding and engineering concern, Harland and Wolff Ltd., the Head Office and large works of which are in Belfast, has supplied a great number of ships to British and foreign ship-owners trading in Asia, Far East and the Pacific. These shipbuilding yards have built many ships for Shaw, Savill & Albion Line, Blue Star Line, Alfred Holt & Co., and others. In 1952 the vessel "Cedric" was delivered to Shaw, Savill, and a sister vessel "Cymric" was launched in December, 1952, while a further vessel, a 20,000 ton liner for the same owners, will shortly be laid down at Belfast. A 28,000 ton passenger liner for P. & O.

and six motor cargo vessels for Andrew Weir Shipping and Trading Company are on order, while vessels for Port Line Ltd. are under construction at present. In addition, nine small passenger vessels have been built for use in Indian waters, four of them ("Sarasvati," "Sabarmati," "Champavati" and "Rohidas") since the war, while marine engines have been supplied to Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company for fitting in hulls built by them. This firm's engineering department is at present manufacturing Diesel-driven Alternator sets for the New South Wales Electricity Board, and has received contracts for Alternators and Generators from other parts of Australia, as well as from India and Singapore.

In the field of air transport to and in the East, Short Brothers & Harland Ltd. have played a notable part by supplying aircraft for the air routes to Asia during the last two decades. In the early 'thirties a great deal of pioneering work was carried out in the establishment of air routes from the United Kingdom to India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dutch East Indies and Australia. At first this air link was not continuous and parts of the journey were made by surface transport. Short flying boats, namely the Calcutta Class, and later the Kent Class, were used on some portions of this route. In 1937, Imperial Airways, in order to speed up communications between Great Britain and the East, decided to re-equip their fleet with an aircraft which was capable of flying the through route from the UK to any part of the East and also the Antipodes. The "C" Class flying boats (or "Empire" Class as they were sometimes called) designed and built by Short Brothers, were chosen for this purpose. These flying boats became familiar sights at their stopping points in the East, and it is worth recording that when "Canopus" (the first of the "C" flying boats launched in 1937) retired after ten years of service she had a record of two million accident-free flying hours. During the war, the Japanese invasion cut off a number of aerodromes, and the problem of maintaining air communications between South Africa and Australia became acute. The "Horseshoe Route" was inaugurated, in which "C" flying boats flew from Durban to Calcutta. After the war the Short Sandringham and Solent flying boats served on routes to the East. In the post-war period Short Bros. have established commercial links with Asian countries. In December, 1952, the Indian Navy took delivery of the first of the ten ordered Sealand amphibian aircraft which will be based at Cochin on the shores of the Indian Ocean and will perform liaison and communications duties. A Pakistani business house, Ralli Brothers, already operates a Sealand from a base at Dacca, and the Government of East Bengal has placed an order for two Sealands to facilitate the work of its Transport Commission. An oil company with interests in Borneo is to acquire a Sealand, while the Christian Missionary Alliance, operating on North Borneo, has used a Sealand amphibian since 1950, and thus has overcome the difficulties in the maintenance of numerous outstations set in mountainous territory completely unsuitable for landplane operation.

AND NOW *Ten Sealands for the Indian Navy*



Fitted with dual controls and long range tanks, and with seating accommodation for six, these amphibians will be operated as communications aircraft, based at Cochin on the western seaboard of Southern India.

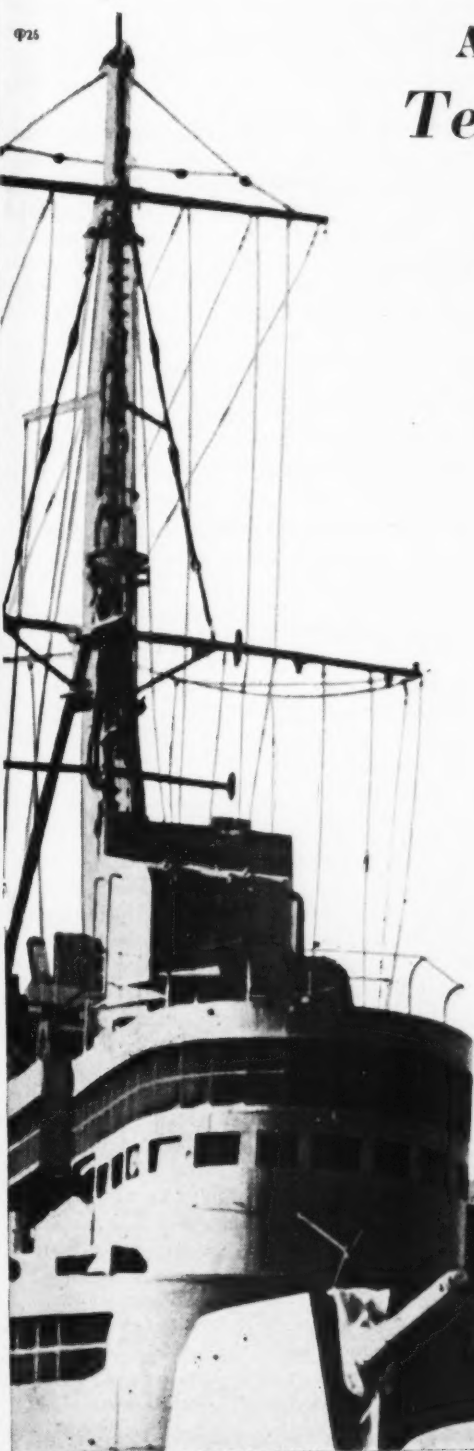
Yet again the unique qualities of the Short Sealand justify the selection of this aircraft by the Indian Navy for their varied requirements, and it is quite certain that this sturdy amphibian will undertake its duties, however arduous, without difficulty, just as other Sealands are successfully tackling unusual tasks in many other parts of the world today.

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Freedom from Hunger

By V. Wolpert

IT cannot be over-emphasized that freedom from hunger in itself helps towards peace and security," states the *Second World Food Survey**. This UN publication recalls the fact that since the outbreak of the Korean war, many countries have embarked on heavy defence programmes entailing a large diversion of resources to armaments, which has already resulted in shortages and high prices for agricultural machinery, fertilisers and many other agricultural requisites. The Survey warns that "Any considerable diversion to other uses of the existing precarious resources available to agriculture can easily jeopardize the world's food situation and thus increase the very dangers which have led to the present programme of defence."

The *First World Food Survey*, which was published in 1946, dealt with the situation prevailing immediately after the war. The new Survey not only describes developments during the intermediate years, but has also worked out nutritional requirements per head per day in accordance with specific conditions in the various parts of the world, as well as food production and consumption targets for 1960 for individual countries, taking into consideration the population trends. N. E. Dodd, Director-General of

* Rome: FAO, 2s. 6d.

the FAO, writes in the introduction to the survey that "the new information gives no ground for complacency," that "the average food supply per person over large areas of the world, five years after war was over, was still lower than before the war" and that "annual increases in food production are barely keeping pace with the increasing population."

The figures which relate to the Far Eastern and Pacific region are alarming. Throughout this region the consumption (measured in calories per head per day) is at present lower than the already inadequate consumption of pre-war days, while the population is increasing steadily, aggravating the food supply problem. It is estimated that the total population of this area will reach the 1,310 million figure by 1960, compared with 1,078 million in 1936 and 1,194 million in 1949.

The following table shows the decline in consumption during 1949-50 years as against the pre-war period, the targets for 1960 (indicating the magnitude of the task to achieve these targets), and the fact that even these targets do not completely close the gap between consumption and estimated requirements.

Calorie content of national average food supplies (at retail level):—

All figures: calories per head per day.

	1931-7	1949-50	1948-9	Target 1960	Estimated requirements
India	1,934-8	1,700		2,000	2,250
Pakistan	1,970 ¹			2,230	2,300
Ceylon	2,140	1,970	2,020	2,200	2,270
Japan	2,180	2,100		2,210	2,330
Philippines	1,920	1,960		2,250	2,230 ²
Indonesia	2,040	1,880		2,100	—
Indo-China	1,850	1,560		2,090	—
China		2,230	2,030	2,260	—

(1) includes Pakistan; (2) among the tabulated countries, only the Philippines show an increase in 1949-50 period as against the pre-war period, while their 1960 target is higher than the estimated requirements.

In addition to the inadequate calorie intake by the population of the Far East, the diet in this region shows clear evidence of nutritional unbalance. During recent post-war years the percentages of per head calorie supplies derived from cereals, starchy roots and sugar amounted in India to 76, in China to 77, and in Japan and Indonesia even to 82 (in the USA the percentage was 43, and in the UK 53), showing a deficiency in the diet of nutritionally rich protective foods such as meat, milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables. The targets for 1960 gross food supplies take into account these nutritional unbalances, and fix that in the Far East region the present supplies of meat should increase by 47, those of eggs by 124, of fish by 68, and of milk by 32 per cent. in 1960. During the same period the gross supplies of cereals should increase by 22 per cent. (reaching 278 million metric tons), starchy roots by 16 per cent., pulses by 48 per cent., and sugar by 35 per cent.

To achieve these targets the Survey urges the provision of simple mechanical tools, the application of more fertilisers and "above all a great reduction in the existing gap between modern knowledge of scientific methods and the primitive agricultural practices which still prevail."



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The Cooperative Movement in India

By a Special Correspondent

COOPERATION is an overworked word in the English language, but cooperation as understood by the 125 million men and women who are members of the many types of cooperative societies and movements throughout the world can provide the answer to some of the most basic of India's economic problems. The cooperative movement started when 28 mill workers in Rochdale, England, set up their cooperative store. They bought goods wholesale, sold to themselves retail and divided the surplus. Since that first store was opened in 1884 the movement has grown until today its economic and social influence in the world is an indisputable fact.

In India the individual farmer is struggling to produce enough food to keep himself and his dependants alive. He has no capital with which to invest in new machinery or buy modern fertilisers. He is often unaware of the considerable improvements that could be introduced on his soil. Each year he must borrow from the village merchant in order to buy seed for planting and food to keep his family. These supplies are forthcoming from the merchant on a credit system whereby the merchant is gambling on the success or failure of the season's crops. Accordingly the price must cover not only the cost of the goods but also an exceedingly high rate of interest on the loan. The farmer thus starts his year in debt.

At harvest time again the merchant commands the situation. The farmer cannot afford to market his produce in the distant city or to look around for the best prices. Instead he must once more sell to the merchant—at the merchant's price.

This vicious circle of ignorance and poverty has dominated the agricultural scene in many rural communities throughout the ages. But slowly the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers are being applied to break the circle and at the same time increase the productivity of the land. Individually the farmers cannot solve the problem. Only by cooperation and all that it entails can the best results be obtained and living conditions improved. India was one of the first predominantly rural countries to which cooperative methods were introduced some 50 years ago.

The first step was the establishment of village credit banks to oust the merchant from his dictatorial position.



United Nations

Cooperative farmer ploughs swamp land in Nawabganj—now free from malaria—with a tractor

By 1943 there were some 95,000 of these banks incorporating a membership of approximately 35 million people, most of them heads of families. But credit banks, though of great importance, are not the only form of Indian cooperative enterprise. The farmers themselves are cooperating in the cultivation of their fields and crops. Cooperative societies have developed in every province of India, stimulated and initiated by the efforts of thousands of volunteers working in the villages, and in regional and national organisations which have been created to coordinate the activities of these societies. In 1949 the Indian Cooperative Union was set up in Bangalore.

The Government of India has been quick to realise the part which a strong cooperative movement can play in forwarding the campaign towards greater food production, and cooperation figures largely in the five year plan which has been launched. Giant cooperative farms are being run on the lands recently reclaimed from the jungle and swamps of Northern India. Model agricultural villages working on a cooperative system have been established near Delhi and visitors used to seeing the poverty and despair of many small holders struggling to exact a meagre living from the soil are amazed to find good harvests, happy people and modern machinery. Each of the villages elect representatives to a central committee where ideas are exchanged, new methods taught and the year's harvesting planned.

In many other areas cooperation is growing simply on the strength and enthusiasm of its members. The Gujarat Cooperative Institute, for example, working in the villages of the Gujarat region of the State of Bombay, carries out a full educational service with lectures, conferences and work camps. A monthly news sheet is issued in the

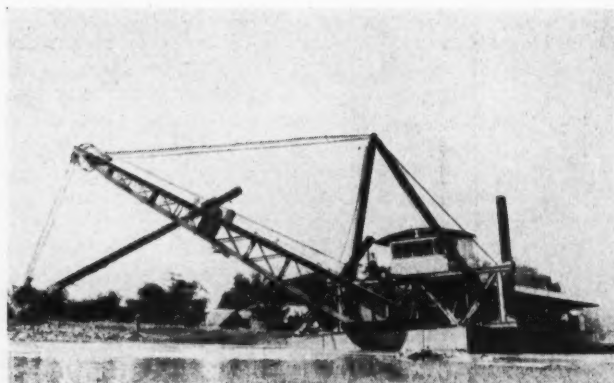


United Nations

A typical scene in an Indian village. A farmer with his child, after the day's work

Gujarati language for the benefit of the many local co-operative societies which are flourishing in this agricultural community.

Genuine cooperation cannot exist alongside ignorance and illiteracy. Education, which has always distinguished cooperative enterprise from a normal business concern, plays a leading part in the Indian cooperative programme. But to carry out an educational programme requires equipment, especially among people who have never been to school and who are occupied from dawn to dusk in their fields. The Gujarat Regional Institute and other cooperative societies are severely handicapped in their work by the lack of funds with which to obtain the essential teaching and audio-visual aids. They are even unable to buy the books and periodicals on cooperative economics or rural farming. Their sole source of income is the contributions of the members and the slight profit from the printing centrally of needed forms and documents. This difficult situation has given rise to a new development in the field of international cooperative activity. Through the International Cooperative Alliance which initiates, stimulates and assists cooperators in all parts of the world, the information on their needs has been brought to the attention of Unesco and today the Gujarat Cooperative Institute figures as one of the most recent additions to the Unesco list of projects available for assistance through the Gift Coupon Scheme. Cooperators in the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands and the United States are now given the opportunity to show the strength of the ties of cooperative ideals by helping their Indian colleagues carry out their programme.



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